



Agricultural.

THE HAPPY FARMER.

The farmer's life's the life for me,
With its honest toil and spirit free,
Contentment, peace, sobriety,
May they his bright rewards e'er be.

The farmer's boy's the boy for me,
I love to hear him merrily,
Come whistling from his barn yard work,
Where he busy plied the fodder fork.

The farmer's life's the life for me,
Tho' hard his toil, by industry,
He earns his bread, and noble farm,
And all for him, have a sweet charm.

The lighted hearth, the crackling fire,
The happy wife, with children nigh her,
The dog at sleep upon the hearth,
The playful cat all full of mirth;

The howling wind without the door,
The cricket chirping 'neath the floor;
Are sights and things I've pondered o'er,
And fill the happy farmer's store.

"Come Tom the Bible bring to me,
We'll read its truths while time doth flee,"
The busy wife her needles ply,
And Sally sits her mother nigh.

A smiling group of children dear
Around the table sit to hear,
And the farmer smiles and smiles again,
To see such bliss around him reign.

Tho' wheat be low, yet goods are cheap,
And better harvest's they may reap;
The news are also cheap to them,
One dollar buys the *Son and Gem*.

C. M. D.

GERMAN AGRICULTURE.

Each German has his house, his orchard, his roadside trees, so laden with fruit, that if he did not carefully prop up and tie together, and in many places hold the boughs together with wooden clamps, they would be torn assunder by their own weight. He has his corn plot, his plot of mangold wurtzel, or hay, for potatoes, for hemp, &c. He is his own master, and he therefore, and every branch of his family, have the strongest motive for constant exertion. You see the effect of this in his industry and in his economy.

In Germany nothing is lost. The produce of the trees and the cows is carried to market: much fruit is dried for winter use. You see it lying in the sun to dry. You see strings of them hanging from their chamber windows in the sun. The cows are kept up for the greater part of the year, and every green thing is collected for them. Every little nook, where the grass grows by roadside and river, and brook, is carefully cut with the sickle, and carried home on the heads of the women and children in baskets, or tied in large cloths. Nothing of any kind that possibly be made of any use is lost; weeds, nettles, nay, the very goose grass which covers waste places, is cut and taken for the cows. You see the little children standing in the streets of the villages, in the streams which generally run down them, busy washing these weeds before they are given to the cattle.

They carefully collect the leaves of the marsh grass, carefully cut their potato tops for them, and even if other things fail, gather green leaves from the woodlands. One cannot help thinking continually of the enormous waste of such things in England—of the vast quantities of grass on banks, by road-sides, in the openings of plantations, in lanes, in church-yards,

where grass from year to year springs and dies, but which, if carefully cut, would maintain many thousand cows for the poor.

To pursue still further this subject of German economy. The very cuttings of the vines are dried and preserved for winter fodder. The tops and refuse of hemp serve as bedding for the cows; nay, even the rough stalks of the poppies, after the heads have been gathered for oil, are saved, and all these are converted into manure for the land. When these are not sufficient, the children are sent into the woods for moss, and all our readers familiar with Germany will remember to have seen them coming homeward with large bundles of this on their heads. In autumn, the falling leaves are gathered and stacked for the same purpose. The fir cones, which with us lie and rot in the woods, are carefully collected and sold for lighting fires.

In short, the economy and care of German peasants are an example to all Europe. They have for years, nay ages, been doing that, as it regards agricultural management, to which the British is but just now beginning to open its eyes. Time, also, is as carefully economised as every thing else. They are early risers, as may well be conceived, when the children, many of who come from a considerable distance, are in school at six in the morning. As they tend their cattle or their swine, the knitting never ceases, and hence the quantities of stockings and other household things which they accumulate is astonishing.—*Hewitt*.

PRODUCE FROM A SINGLE GRAIN OF WHEAT.

An experiment on the fertility of wheat has, during the past year, been carried out in the garden of Mr. Stowe, a surgeon at Buckingham, of which the following is a correct account. On the 13th of July, 1850, a single grain of wheat was sown in the garden; the plant came up in ten days, and grew luxuriantly till the 13th of September: it was then taken up and divided into slips, and replanted, and suffered to remain till the 16th of April of the present year. The weather then becoming favourably wet, they were all taken up again and divided into no less than 114 plants, these being planted, were permitted to stand till the present month of August, when they were productive of the amazing number of 520 ears of wheat, many of them of full size, containing more than 50 grains of corn. The crop was gathered before it was fully ripened, as the birds attacked it in spite of revolving feathers and a protecting net. Whether the result of this trial will strengthen the opinion of those who contend for the thin sowing of wheat in ordinary field cultivation, must be left to the judgment of more practical agriculturists, but of the amazing productiveness of the wheat plant, under such treatment, any one may easily satisfy himself by repeating the experiment.—*English Paper*.

BURNING WATER.

A plan has been projected for decomposing water and obtaining light from the two gasses, oxygen and hydrogen, of which it is composed, the first being the best known supporter of combustion, and the other being combustible. The following notices of this invention will give some information as to its progress:—"Our readers are familiar with the fact that an American (Paine) had succeeded in decomposing water, and so combining its hydrogen with carbon so as to form an illuminating gas, which he proposed as a substitute for the gas produced by the destructive distillation of coal in iron retorts. The invention at first attracted a great deal of attention; but so far as we have been able to learn, the process by which the gas was produced was both costly and uncertain. Since the period at which the American discovery was announced, a German chemist of great eminence has announced the discovery of a process by which the water may be decomposed, and carburetted hydrogen formed at little more than a nominal cost, with unerring certainty, and in, practically, an unlimited quantity. The gas so produced is said to possess illuminating power far exceeding that of ordinary coal gas, and capable of producing, in the act of combustion, such an amount of caloric as to constitute an economic substitute for coal in the generation of water steam for the propulsion of boats and locomotives. The *Times* thus alludes to this strange and most interesting invention.—*Steam and Gas without Coal*.—It is scarcely thirty years since a

Committee of the House of Commons doubted the possibility of travelling at the rate of fifteen miles an hour. Windsor, too, was laughed at when he proposed to light street lamps with gas, Dr. Lardner endeavoured to prove the impossibility of a steam-ship ever crossing to America; Professor Wheatstone was treated as a clever enthusiast, when he first promulgated his ideas of the electric telegraph; yet all these things have been brought into successful operation. One or two of the principal railway companies have lately entered into an arrangement with Mr. Shepard, who has patented an invention for the decomposition of water, and negotiations are pending with some of the steam-boat companies for the application of this patent to propel steam-boats, locomotives, and other engines, by which the cost of working machinery and generating gas is likely to be greatly reduced."

DISLOCATION OF THE JAW.

Mr. South says, in his "Household Surgery," that this may happen on one or both sides, more commonly the latter. It mostly takes place in gaping, when the lower jaw being violently and quickly drawn down, its joint-ends slip from their sockets, and the jaw becomes firmly fixed, keeping the mouth wide open. The face, in consequence, is lengthened considerably; the expression altered and vacant; the power of speaking lost; and any attempt at utterance producing only strange and incomprehensible noises and the oddest contortions of the countenance possible, and often rendered exceedingly ludicrous by the various shifts the person employs in endeavouring to make himself understood. An amusing illustration of this accident was used to be enacted by Abernethy, with great humour. An officer was dining with a party of friends, and his laughing faculties having been excited, he was rattling along and laughing heartily, when suddenly he became dumb, or rather, he ceased to be able to speak, his mouth remained wide open, and he uttered only a vast variety of strange sounds. At first it was supposed he was endeavouring to amuse the company by these uncouth noises; but soon it was perceived to be no joke, and that he was really unable to close his mouth or speak. After a little while he managed to make them understand he had dislocated his jaw, and that it would be necessary to send for a doctor, who in due time arrived, and set about replacing the jaw. But whether it was he did not know how to perform the operation, or whether he put in one side, and whilst attempting to put in the other, the former slipped out again, as it will sometimes do, he could not manage the job at all, and the officer, who had frequently suffered from the accident before, and had it replaced without difficulty, getting angry, and at last furious, at his bungling, induced the doctor to change his tack, and declare the sufferer was mad. This of course alarmed the whole party, who seized on the unfortunate soldier, carried him to bed, and put him in a straight waistcoat, whilst the doctor prepared for shaving his head and putting on a blister. The poor fellow finding by this time he could not hope by further exertions to make his condition understood, or free himself from his tormenters, and the doctor still persisting he was mad, he at last made signs for pen ink and paper, which it was thought he could do no mischief with, and that his asking for them was rather a sign of returning reason, they were brought, and he immediately wrote, 'For goodness sake send for Mr.—. The surgeon of my regiment, he knows what's the matter with me.' The letter was dispatched, the surgeon soon arrived, the dislocation was quickly put to rights, and the ignorant blockhead who had caused all the turmoil slunk off in disgrace.

BLASTING ROCK.—Fill the hole from one-third of all its depth with powder; place a straw or tube filled with powder in the side of the hole, from the charge to the top of the hole (or a piece of blasting fuse will be just as good); then put a little dry sand on the charge—one-fourth of an inch is enough; this is to prevent accident. After this, place a round bar of iron, as large as will fill the hole, on the charge; let the iron be long enough to extend a few inches above the hole; then fill the space around the bar with dry sand; place a piece of timber on the top of the bar of iron, and place 200 or more pounds weight on it. It is better to have the iron bar made with holes through, and put a nail or pin through above