

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL, AND TRANSACTIONS

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We willingly give insertion to the prospectus of a work published in New York, by Leonard Scott & Co., entitled "The Farmers Guide to the Science and Practice of Agriculture," by Henry Stephens, F. R. S. E., author of the "Book of the Farm," assisted by John P. Norton, M. A., Professor of Scientific Agriculture at Yale College, New Haven. We have received the first four numbers of this work, and they are all that could be expected from gentlemen who are so well known to reading Agriculturists. We have seen Mr. Stephens' "Book of the Farm," and we have looked upon it as one of the best works on Agriculture that we are acquainted with. We can safely recommend "The Farmers Guide" to Agriculturists, as one of the best and most useful works they can purchase, so far as we can judge of the numbers published, and we have no doubt whatever that the forthcoming numbers will be fully equal to those we have seen, and that the highest character we could give of the work will be sustained to the end of the publication. We give the following extracts from the work.

But a book might be made an efficient assistant-monitor. If expressly written for the purpose, it might not only corroborate what the farmer inculcated, but serve as a substitute in his temporary absence. In this way the tuition of the pupil might proceed uninterruptedly. The usual deprecations against the acquirement of practical farming from books, would not apply to such a one. I would give no such counsel to any pupil. Books on farming, to be really serviceable to the learner, ought not to

constitute his sole study: the field being the best place for perceiving the fitness of labour to the purposes it is designed to attain, the book should only present itself as a monitor for indicating the best modes of farming, and showing the way of learning those modes most easily. *By it the practice of experienced farmers might be communicated to the pupil. By consulting that which had been purposely written for his guidance, while carefully observing the import of daily operations,—which are often intricate, always protracted over considerable portions of time, and necessarily separated from each other,—he would acquire that import in a much shorter time than if left to be discovered by his own sagacity.*

Such a book would be useful to every class of pupils—to him who, having finished his scholastic and academical education, directs his attention, for the first time, to the acquirement of practical farming, or who, though born on a farm, having spent the greater part of his life at school, determines, at length, on following his father's profession. For the latter class of pupils, tuition in farming, and information from books, are as requisite as for the former. Those, on the other hand, who have constantly resided on a farm from infancy, can never be said to have been pupils, as, by the time they are fit to act for themselves, they are proficient in farming. Having myself, for a time, been placed precisely in the position of the first description of pupils, I can bear sincere testimony to the truth of the difficulties to be encountered in the first year of pupilage. I felt that a guide-book would have been an invaluable monitor to me, but none such existed at the time. No doubt the farmer ought to possess the ability to instruct every pupil he receives under his charge. This is his bounden duty, which, if rightly performed, no guide-book would be required; but very few farmers undertake the onerous task of instruction. Practical farming they leave the pupils to acquire for themselves in the fields—theoretical knowledge, very few, if any, are competent to impart. The pupils, being thus very much left to their own industry, can scarcely avoid being beset with difficulties, and losing much time. It must be acknowledged,