

APPLES.

In passing through the country during the past month, our attention has been called to a fact that demands serious consideration. We refer to the careless manner in which fruit is packed. When a boy we remember seeing pecan and cherry trees cut down for the sake of their fruit, and our bosoms swelled with indignation at the perpetrators of this wanton waste. Yet we have lately seen fine bearing trees with broken limbs and scarred trunks, owing to the carelessness of those, who under the plea of carefully guarding the offspring, had killed the sire. It displays such a lack of judgment, to see a man devote both time and money in order to bring an orchard to maturity, and then calmly fold his arms as if all was done. Fruit trees require constant care and good management. If we take care of the fruit, why not the tree that produces it? It is frequently the case that picking apples is intrusted to children. Armed with long poles and stones, they repair to the orchard, and woe to the unlucky tree that attracts their attention. Belabored with sticks, pelted with stones, torn by boot heels, it presents the appearance of a tree placed midway between two contending armies. The evil consequences of this treatment manifests itself in various ways. The yield for the coming year is impaired. The vitality of the tree to a great extent is absorbed, in repairing the injury sustained. A portion of the fruit stem is broken off with the apple, which is a damage to the tree. There is a point of separation when fruit is ripe, that must be regarded. If there is no stem with the apple it is very apt to decay, and if there is too much, an injury is done to the tree. Some farmers select the morning to pick apples. This is not the best plan; apples should be picked only on dry days, after the dew has dried off and before it commences to fall in the evening. Care should be taken in handling apples, especially some varieties like the Northern Spy for instance. After being picked, we prefer to let them undergo the sweating process before placing them in barrels, yet many prefer packing at once. They should be kept in a cool place, apples will stand far more cold than general opinion allows. Apples rapidly rot when stored in warm places, especially if the atmosphere is moist. A cool dry place is essential to their preser-

vation. Let our readers attend to these few hurried suggestions, and they will find that their orchards will become not only a home comfort, but a source of income.

WHAT IS AGRICULTURE?

Is it a trade? No, alas! How many think it is, and abuse it. Agriculture is a profession, it cannot be called anything else. It is one of the most ancient and honorable occupations known; it takes the lead in the world; it is the back-bone and sinew of every country; it has made nations, caused them to become mighty, and when neglected they have collapsed; it must take the lead of all employments; it is the impetus that sets everything in motion—the clergyman could not long write his sermons, the lawyer his briefs, the doctor dispense his medicine, the ponderous machinery of the factory, which runs with such velocity and regularity would stop their motion, the tailor would have to lay down his needle and shears, the bootmaker his last and awl, the saddler would have no demand for his wares, the draper must put up his shutters, the carpenter would cease to wield his hammer, and the ring of the blacksmith's anvil would be no longer heard, ships could not be manned nor plough the ocean, nor could that civilizer and developer of countries, the Railway exist, if the farmers of the world were to combine and stop their avocation for a season. All occupations and employments are subservient to that of agriculture, and this interest were it to do so, would become a powerful monopoly that could rule the world, and set everybody at defiance, as all are directly or indirectly dependent on the farmer. He it is who subdues the forest, and causes the surface of the earth to smile and blossom. He it is who grows the grain, and rears the meat, which sustains mankind, yet with all this vast ruling power, where is there an occupation in which so little unity exists as with the farming class? All other trades have their Societies, who are presided over by able committees and officials, who carefully and assiduously watch every movement likely to hurt their business, and give timely warning of such to their followers, and steps are at once taken to counteract any thing likely to be injurious or prejudicial. Such is not the case with agriculture, and why is it? One reason

is a lack of unanimity, another is the general ignorance of farmers. They isolate themselves from the world; they as a rule have no general acquaintance with the value of the wares they want or make use of, and thro' this fear of a faulty judgment they have no confidence in themselves, hence they think everybody asks too much for their articles, and tries to take them in. A farmer has been called (and not unreasonably) an automaton, and compared to a machine, which set in motion does a certain amount of work. They eat, drink, work, and sleep. Take the farmers of any country as a body, they are the most degraded and ignorant class known, and why is this? It is in the first place the general neglect of education. In these advanced days of civilization, it is within the pale of every farmer to give his children at least a knowledge of writing, reading, correct spelling and arithmetic. These when once acquired, can be easily improved upon in spare hours, by studying good and useful books and newspapers, and having reading rooms and debating Societies in every country village and district, where fixed evenings should be arranged to discuss matters affecting their own interests. Free scope and limit should also be given to discuss general business topics, and everyone should give vent to their opinion, and make known any discoveries in the cultivation of their crops, or improvement they have made in the management and treatment of their cattle. How often do we see, and how lamentable is it to hear, a farmer remark in our presence, that he can neither read or write, that his parents never sent him to school. The fault is not altogether here. It is within the scope of everyone, even after they have arrived at manhood, supposing their scholastic duties have been neglected, to learn the common rudiments of education, and they could even then, by reading and study, become useful and intelligent men. To such of our readers who have been disregarded in their early days by their parents we implore them not to act in like manner to their offspring, remember that society demands a duty of you in this respect, that you educate your children, if only in a plain way to befit them to carry on their duties in life, and become respectable members of the community.

A farmer to be a practical one should have a knowledge of Chemistry and medicine. The former would enable him to