FARM HOUSES.

We think there are few points of husbandry in the effect of bad management and want of calculation, so generally apparent among farmers, as in the position, arrangement, and construction of their dwelling houses. Comfort and utility is too often sacrificed to show and beauty of design, and neatness of execution ove looked, where they ought to be most apparent. There can be as much good taste shown in the selection of a position, and in the construction of a farm house, as in that of a palace, and there can be no good reason why it should not here be exercised.

The position of a farm house is of great consequence, and should be determined with particular reference to conveniences, salubrity, and appearance. The whole ground should be examined before the choice is made. The facilities of procuring fuel; of securing a plentiful supply of good water; of having an easily accessible means of ingress and egress to and from the premises; of the manner in which the productions of the farm must be moved, such as hay and grain, and the manure returned to the fields; all these things must be well looked at before the place for the farm building is fixed upon.—It would be obviously improper to build on the highest part of a farm, or on some distant corner, because such spot was on the most public road, since a farmer's travel is mostly on his farm, and a judicious selection of a site for his buildings, may, in a few years, save him hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of travel. If he has occasion to leave his farm twice or three times a week, he had much better travel over the distance of half or three-fourths of a mile that number of times to the main thoroughfare, than by building on one side or corner of his farm, be compelled to do it many times daily.—But some will say, if we do not build on the road, how will our friends find us? Let no one give himself uneasiness on this point.—The man who has friends will be found by them; and sometimes by being a little out of the way, he will be saved the interruptions caused by what the idle, and those who are obliged to devise some method of killing time, denominate calls of friendship. A shrewd old farmer, one of the best hearted men, as well as one of the most accurate observers of human nature we have ever known, selected the position of his farm building at a considerable distance from the main thoroughfare. His friends objected to the singularity of his choice, as there were places equally favorable, and more accessible. "When a man builds his house in the road, as almost every one does," said our friend, "he must expect to be run over by those who have nothing else to do but to run over other people; if, on the contrary, he puts himself out of the way, the crowd pronounces him a singular man, an eccentric genius, or something of the kind, and as the mass are usually afraid of an uncommon man, they pass him by on the other side."

Salubrity is a point not to be overlooked or hazarded in the choice of a place for the farm buildings. Never allow any consideration to draw you into a swamp or the vicinity of one, where the sun of an American summer is sure to engender in some form the seeds of disease, if not of death. A dry soil, free ventilation, and the absence of all sources of malaria, are indispensable conditions to the robust health the farmer requires. We know of some who have voluntarily subjected themselves to dangers of this kind, under the idea that diseases of this class will wear themselves out. To such we recommend the case of a middle aged woman, found by a friend of ours in a log-cabin on the banks of the Des Plaines, in Illinois. She was suffering under a fit of the ague, and when told to be of good courage, as the fever and ague was a disease that would wear out, she replied, "She believed, as that was the fourteenth summer she had had it regularly, and she thought it was not quite as severe as at first."

Those, then, who are yet to erect their farm buildings will, in selecting the position, do well to consider their course of cultivation, the crops they will be most likely to grow, their comparative bulk and ease of removal, the distribution of their manure, the requisites of convenient location and health, and the capabilities of the place for the display of correct taste, before the die is cast, since so much of the value of a farm and the pleasure and profit of cultivation is depending on these things.

Another point of very great importance is the plan of the buildings, and the materials of which they are to be constructed. In a house that is well arranged, where the apartments bear a proper proportion and position to each other, where the whole is skillfully constructed with reference to comfort and ease of labor, every housewife knows the advantages that are gained in the saving of work, and in the economy of time. The houses of our farmers are like their farms, usually very much too large. Where a house is so constructed that no room is wasted, a building of very moderate dimension will furnish ample accommodations for a respectable family; much better, indeed, than half our ill-arranged, half-finished huge "shingle-palaces," as our English friends term our dwellings, can offer. In building houses, comfort in the resident, and ease to the laborer, male or female, is too much disregarded. Great houses, large and high rooms, vast fire places, and abundance of light, seems to be the great requisites. When the cost of rendering a large and a long room comfortable; of furnishing or finishing them so as to cause the execution to correspond with the design; and the little possible use the farmer's family can have for so much room in a dwelling, is considered, we think a more rational style of building should be adopted.—But whatever may be the size of the farm house determined upon, the materials used and the execution should be such as to ensure permanence and durability. It may and will cost more in the first place to build well than ill; to use first rate materials than defective or worthless ones; to have the work done in the best manner, rather than half done; but the costly building will be the cheapest in the end. When finished, it is finished for a life, or perhaps half a dozen, and its repairs will cost but a mere trifle, while the cheap house will absorb from five to ten per cent of its first cost annually in repairs, and finally require rebuilding, while the other is only in its prime.

Stone or brick is the best material for building in this country; as in such houses the great conditions of durability, and an equality of temperature, are best attained.—Brick or stone houses, however, require dry and well ventilated cellars, and the plastering of the rooms should not be laid immediately on the walls, otherwise they are apt to acquire humidity, and operate unfavorably on health. When proper precautions in these respects are taken, such dwellings are unobjectionable, and their durability, the ease with which they can be kept at a proper temperature for comfort and health, by heat in the winter, and the circulation of air in the summer, render them preferable to others. The additional fuel required in the common wood farm house, over that necessary in one of stone or brick will, in a few years, balance the difference in the expense of materials, independent of the pleasure and comfort derived from the avoidance of sudden transitions from a high to a low temperature, or vice versa, and its general effect on the health.

In the construction and arrangement of our dwellings, particular attention should be paid to the economization of fuel. There are few farmers in the United States that do not find their fuel cost more than their bread. The annual expenditure might be lessened one-half or two-thirds by care in building, and the adoption of the improved method of warming houses by heated air, of which illustrations were given in the last volume of the cultivator. That little extra cost at first, which prevents the necessity of a constant expenditure hereafter, is, to the farmer, the strictest economy; and that method of building which shall secure a desirable temperature at nearly all seasons, certainly should have the preference. Nowhere is the good effect of system, and a well digested plan of operations more conspicuous than in the construction and arrangement of the farm buildings. Order and judgment here exert their full influence, and in a great degree stamp the character and the mind of the man. The most slovenly are not insensible to the value of neatness, and the farmer whose buildings are inconvenient, ill-constructed, disorderly, dilapidated, and without taste or design, cannot help a feeling of respect for the man whose domicile exhibits an appearance the reverse of all this. Let the farmer then build well, build for durability, build for comfort and utility, and not for ostentation or show, and he will find his reward.

PLANTING LIVE FENCES.

When land is to be divided or enclosed for fruit gardens or orchards, it may be effected by planting live fences of different varieties of woody plants; but those of a dwarf thorny nature are found to answer the best purpose in most cases, being more proper to guard against cattle and other intruders than those without armature.

The plants used for such purpose, are those varieties which are found to thrive well in different parts of the states, and if natives the better, being more hardy and better able to withstand the changes natural to the climate. The European hawthorn is perhaps the best plant for this purpose, although it does not answer equally well in all parts of the country. In the New England States particularly, this plant is liable to be destroyed by mildew and the borer, but in the state of New York it does much better. The buckthorn, or *Rhamnus catharticus* of Linnæus, is now much planted in New England, and answers the purpose admirably well. To this may be added the *Shepardia eleagnoides* (of Nuttal) or Buffalo tree, which I am inclined to think, when it has had a more general trial, will supersede anything that has hitherto been introduced for the purpose. The locust, white mulberry, sweetbrier, beach, and many varieties which have been cultivated for other uses, may be added to the list; but, as my object is to give directions regarding live fences to enclose orchards, &c. I shall proceed to treat on that subject.

Sowing the seeds of plants for live fences.—The seeds of different varieties of plants for live fences are generally sown in nursery rows eighteen inches wide and two feet between the rows, or they are sometimes sown in four feet beds with eighteen inch or two feet alleys. The autumn is the proper season for sowing, or so soon as the seed is ripe. Such seeds as have a hard covering, as the locust, should have their outer covering softened by boiling water being poured upon it, as the seed will not vegetate unless its covering is so softened as to admit air and moisture to it.

Planting the Fence.—When the young plants are only one or two years in the nursery rows, they will be fit for planting. The ground intended to be planted should be previously prepared for it, by cleaning it well, and working in a quantity of good rotten manure. The planting may be performed by stretching a garden line where the location of the fence is designed; the plants may then be inserted in a single row six inches apart, by the spade or dibble; but the former I would recommend. The work is done by placing the spade parallel with the line, and pressing it down with