

sharpened the wits, and developed the inventive faculties, so that the graduate of the farm was prepared for any emergency in life. He was not likely to find any new obstacles or difficulties that had not been met and overcome in his early discipline. Possibly some substitute may be found for this training, but we are a little skeptical. However that may be, there is no mistaking the tendency of farm life in our country to a division of labor. In the vicinity of our large towns and villages, there has sprung up, within a few years, a distinct business known as truck farming. A man buys a few acres, often less than ten, raises vegetables for the city markets, educates his family, gets a competence, and if the city grows fast enough, leaves a fortune to his heirs by the rise of his real estate. Nearly allied to this, and sometimes united with it, is fruit farming. Then there are whole farms devoted mainly to the production of some one article, as hay, onions, hops, tobacco, etc. Then there is the production of milk for the supply of the city; cheese farming and butter farming, and both combined; sheep farming, and grazing to make beef. In the grain districts, the chief business is the production of wheat, oats, and corn for sale. This style of farming, no doubt, simplifies the business, and generally pays better. There will come, however, bad years, and defective crops, and if the farmer stakes everything upon one product, he is liable to lose a year's labor. This is a thing which never happens in a varied husbandry.

Sometimes these specialties are enormously profitable. We recently visited the hop farm of M. C. Wetmore, near Rochester, who makes hops his main product. There are thirty acres in the farm, and he has this year fifteen acres in hops—four on poles by the old method, and eleven on strings, about seven feet from the ground. He sold last year, from fourteen acres, \$10,000 worth of hops, and this year, judging from the look of the vines, the product will be still larger. Hops sold last year for sixty-five cents a pound. This article can be raised at a profit for ten cents a pound. He gets about 1100 pounds to the acre in good years. He finds the strings very much better than the poles; they cost about one-eighth as much, and make a yield of 200 pounds more to the acre, and save a good deal of labor in the picking. These are facts worth knowing among our hop growing friends. A small farm, well tilled, with a single crop, will keep a man out of the almshouse.

RAPHANUS CAUDATUS, OR LONG-TAILED RADISH.—It is a native of Java, and is much used in some parts of India in salads; and being perfectly hardy here, it is likely, I think, to prove very useful. It appears to be one of the radish tribe; but, unlike that esculent, the seed-pods, not the root, are eaten: these are very curious, attaining an immense size in a wonderfully short space of time, sometimes growing five or six inches in twenty-four hours; the pods are usually from two to three feet long when full grown, some being straight, others curl in the most fantastic shapes. They are of a most agreeable flavor, and, when half grown, can be eaten in the same way as a radish; which root they greatly resemble in taste, though their flavor is more delicate. It is, however, when the long pods are boiled that they are most delicious, tasting then much like asparagus, with a slight green-pea flavor. They should be served on toast, and will form a most agreeable addition and novelty for the table.

The plant is easily cultivated. The seed should be sown in slight heat about the middle of May, and the young plants, when fairly up, planted out in the open air in good rich soil. No further attention is needed, except to keep the soil well watered in dry weather, and to keep the ground clear of weeds. In two months from the time of sowing, the plants will begin to produce most freely their long pods, which must be gathered young, i.e. half grown, if required for eating raw or for salad. For boiling and pick-

ing, they should be suffered to attain their natural size.

It is called *Maugri* in Java; and the specific name, "tailed" refers to an appendage of the pods.

We copy the above from the *Hammonton Cultivist*, we know not if the plant is raised there, or if seeds can be procured, or if it will answer in our climate; if it is of any service we shall find out and let our readers know about it. (To the Editor of the *Hammonton Cultivist*, take note.

FARM ECONOMY--I.

In close connection with improved culture we find that farm economy bears a very close relation. Without proper economy of the farm, in all its relations, failure to a greater or less extent is liable. Knowledge and skill, in any particular branch; but general knowledge and good management of the entire farm is of much greater importance than skill in any special department; and in order to fully comprehend and perform the full duties of a successful farmer, a greater variety of knowledge, more good judgment and common sense are called into operation than in almost any other branch of business. A successful farmer should have a general knowledge of all of the trades that come in connection with his business; manufactures, merchandising, and a general mechanical knowledge, etc.; if he be deficient in any of these his success is less sure—not that he should be able to compete with skilled labor in these branches, but he should have, joined with good judgment, a general knowledge of all these branches, so that, if occasion required it, he may be able to direct in, or perform any or all of the requirements necessary on the farm. It is true that many successful farmers pass through life, and accumulate a handsome property, who have not the mechanical ability or ingenuity to make the least repairs of the most common farm implements; but we usually find such requirements made up in some other way; had they been able to perform such operations much would have been gained, not only in that respect, but in other ways.

Very much depends upon the choice of a location; whether with good market facilities or not. As all cannot be expected to be accommodated in near proximity to market, the business of the farm should be planned and conducted in accordance therewith. Good land is usually cheaper than poor, especially when equally well located to markets, etc.; the extra cost of improving poor land will equal, if not exceed, the extra cost of good land, and while the good will have handsome returns in crops, and as easily kept in present productiveness, the poor will hardly pay interest and cost of production, and be a source of expense in improving for some years; so that while the poor is being improved the good will more than pay the extra cost in profit on production.

The quantity of land in the farm should be in proportion to the amount of available force to be employed upon it, and the capital in hand, or prospective, to be invested; reserving sufficient to stock the farm and use as working capital. The farmer should be very cautious how he involves himself, requiring a demand for interest to be paid; for there is often a greater difference between paying and receiving interest than twice the per cent paid. In the location and arrangement of farm buildings much judgment and consideration is involved in order to economize labor and steps, which is the same thing. The outbuildings should be located so as to be conveniently approached from the fields, as well as other directions where necessary, overlooked from the house, and constructed in their internal arrangements so that unnecessary labor may be avoided in the care of stock stabled, or doing there necessary work of the barn, etc. Provisions should also be made for the appropriate sheltering of all manure, as well as its economic manufacture, as

it is one of the first essentials in all good farming. The house, although more properly belonging to household economy, bears an important relation to farm economy, and should be of ample dimensions for the convenient performance of the necessary household duties, without waist or unnecessary room, and furnished with all necessary conveniences. Provisions should be made to save all the waste and wash from the house, with as little outlay as possible, and convert them into forms of usefulness and value, to be again reconverted into forms of beauty.

The economy of fencing has an important influence on the profit of the farm. What fence material is the most economical, is a question of growing importance, as our supply of forest timber diminishes. Our indispensable fences should be built, as they involve us in a constant source of expense to keep them in repair, after the necessary large outlay for first cost, and the necessary waste of land covered, and the loss beside them, as well as being nurseries for weeds, bushes, etc. Let any person of observation notice, even in the limited sphere of his own neighborhood, the amount of waste land caused by the occupation of fences that, to say the least, are not absolutely necessary to the economy of the farm, and he will be surprised; and then the cost of erecting and keeping them in repair. As our land becomes more thickly settled, this matter of fencing will of necessity have to be reformed, either less built or a substitute for wood fences employed. It is not good economy to do without implements necessary for frequent use on the farm, or purchase those of a poor quality because their first cost is less than a better article; more than enough is expended extra in their use in a single season than to pay the extra price of light, first class implements; strength, durability and lightness may be combined in the same tool, while much more can be accomplished, with a less wear upon the strength, in the same time, than with a heavy, unwieldy tool, ill suited to the purpose. Neither is it good economy to invest large sums in expensive implements used but rarely, as they increase the permanent investment of the farm, and occasion inconveniences by cramping the resources, and requiring care and space for their storage, etc. It is better economy for two or more small farmers to unite in the ownership of such necessary implements, and agree to use them in common and care for them equally; or what is still better, for one to own and control them, and perform the necessary labor to be done with them for his neighbors at an agreed compensation. By such a union or agreement, and concert of action, the advantages to be derived from such implements are had, while the investment is divided among several.—[Ext.]

FARMERS' DRESS.

Probably no class in society, of equal respectability, more nearly obey the Scriptural injunction, "Take no thought of—where-withal ye shall be clothed,"—than the farmer. The question of dress they are willing to leave to the female gender, or the more effeminate of the masculine. Yet we are all naturally attracted by a well-dressed, and as naturally repelled by a shabbily dressed man. Henry Ward Beecher once used the expression,—"True; dress does not make the man; but when he is made, he looks better dressed up."

It would certainly add to the respectability of the farming class, if they had a little more pride of appearance. Because a portion of society are carried by this pride into foolish and wicked extravagances, making it the highest aim of their existence to make a display of wearing apparel, it is no reason why another class should lower their dignity and excite disgust by appearing in society, clothed in soiled and ragged garments.

A farmer while laboring, is brought into pretty close intimacy with dirt, and his clothes