

Orchard Grass.

This grass is a native of Europe, where it has been cultivated for over a hundred years, meeting with great favor for pastures and meadows. It thrives tolerably well under the shade trees, hence one of the names, orchard grass. It ripens early, about the time of red clover; and starts very soon after being mowed. It is very nutritious, and much liked by cattle if not allowed to get too old and large. It should be sown thickly and cut early for meadow. It is apt to grow in bushes or tufts. In many places of England it stands highest of all grasses in value. In some parts of Kentucky it is sown almost exclusively with red clover. In some rich, new timbered land we know it has, after a few years, nearly run out when sown with white clover, June grass and red top.—Where it succeeds, if grazed down and the stock are turned off, it will be ready for re-grazing in less than one-half the time required for June grass. In summer it is said to grow more in a day than June grass will in a week. It has been neglected because it is the fashion to sow timothy and clover. Fashion is as much a tyrant among farmers as among the ladies, though showing his power in a different mode.

Mr. Hyde, of Massachusetts, says in a recent lecture that he has mowed one piece for eight years, twice a year, and that it is as good as ever. It must not be allowed to get too old before cutting, else the stocks become too hard and coarse.

In Great Britain it is said to endure drought when everything else is burned up. An eminent farmer of Scotland says: "Cock's foot is probably the best known and most productive and valuable of our indigenous grasses." Flint, of Massachusetts, says: "Its rapidity of growth, the luxuriance of its aftermath, and its power of enduring the cropping of cattle, commend it highly to the farmer's care, especially as a pasture grass." All agree that it should be closely cropped. Some praise it, others call it worthless.

Sow with other grasses on account of its forming large tufts when grown alone. One author says do not sow it for lawn, because it grows so fast you would be obliged to cut it every morning before breakfast.

The grass is worthy of a fair trial on various soils and in various climates. We should be glad to hear from some who have found this grass to succeed in Iowa, Illinois, or other Western States; the soil and treatment of the grass. We advise experiments on all prominent grasses.

A Potato Bug Parasite.

I have found an enemy to the potato bug in my patch. I hesitated to speak until I caught the fellow three different times with his lance into a young potato bug. The first two times, the P. B. was dead before I saw him, but the last time I saw the whole affair. The Doctor advanced, and made an attack on the young P. B., by running his bill or lance into P. B., when P. B. rolled himself up into a round ball, making quick movements with his legs. The Doctor kept backing up and down the vine, as long as there was any movement. When the movements ceased on the part of P. B., Doctor stood still and drank his fill. I took Mr. Doctor around among my friends to see if they could tell me what kind of bug he was. Some thought it the squash bug; all the boys who saw him said it was the pumpkin bug. I went to my squash vine and found a bug resembling him very much, with this difference: Mr. Squash Bug was much larger, and very dark both

on breast and back, while my Doctor is of a light drab color on the back, and still lighter, with a golden tinge on the breast.

The following doggerel has been suggested while meandering through the potato vines:

What will I do with my Early Rose, To keep them clean and free from foes? I've tried to "bug" with kerosene, But that I find won't keep them clean, For if too much on the plant is put, It kills the potato down to the root. The next I tried was tobacco tea. Some said 'twas good. I thought I'd see. I'm satisfied that that won't do. For I really think the bugs can chew. I read in "The Farmer" of Paris Green, The best remedy yet tried had been; The mixture one-third to two of flour, Shook over the plant at an early hour, When the bugs want to break their fast, They'd keel right over and breathe their last. Paris Green is good I'm satisfied, The best of all the things I've tried. But one thing more I wish to say, Of what I saw the other day; The bug that infest the pumpkin vine I begin to think is a friend of mine, I caught him killing a potato bug. Of two evils, the least is what I'll hug. —P. Prairie Farmer.

Breaking Heifers to Milking.

Frye, Jr., writes as follows to the Lewiston Journal on this important subject:

"All domestic animals require some sort of training or education. The steer may require more training than the heifer, because the uses are varied to which he has to become accustomed to make his labor "skilled" and practicable. While the cow may not need to be schooled in these higher branches of practical studies, she should be taught that to stand quietly while being milked, and to "hoist" the right foot and place it back of the other, are virtues to be commended and rewarded (by kindness at least). No animals should ever be allowed to pass their first winter without being thoroughly "halter broke," so they can be led by the horn, or with a rope around the neck, gently and peaceably. Doing this when they are young and easily handled saves a vast amount of subsequent hard work and perplexity, and may be, the animals many kicks and blows. There is a great difference in teachers in this kind of science as well as in the four-footed pupils. Some teachers I have seen did not evince half the sense as the cattle they undertook to train. On the other hand, there are some animals so perverse or non compos mentis that it seems almost impossible to teach them the first rudiments of good manners. But, certainly, in most cases there is nothing gained by letting them grow up in these uncouth ways, thinking to take them in hand at a later day. Train while young should be the motto of the barnyard.

"Many an otherwise excellent milker is spoiled for life by harsh treatment. It is better to govern by gentleness and kind treatment than by harsh means and fear of the master. A heifer if well broken to the milk-pail, is thereby made worth at least twenty-five per cent. more—an increase which will pay for much painstaking. The handling of the udder and the process of milking is a very unusual proceeding, and, in addition, the teats are often tender, and the bag caked and inflamed so as to be painful under even the gentlest touch. How often in such a condition from pain and apprehended danger she almost unconsciously lifts her foot and knocks over the milk-pail, and perhaps hits a well-deserved "thwack" upon the shins of the bungler upon the milking stool, and then kicks and bruises are freely interchanged between the frightened brute and the irritated master.

"First teach all your animals to love rather than fear you. Learn them to welcome your coming by presents of a nubbin of corn, an apple, a little salt, etc., on all occasions when practicable. Handle them freely, and get them accustomed to your touch by rubbing and scratching them. Heifers thus accustomed to being handled will soon come to seemingly like the operation of milking. I once had a heifer that from having exceedingly sore teats contracted the habit of running away from me, when milked in the yard, before the milk was half down. All my endeavors to break up the habit failed till, as a last resort, when she started away from me, I caught up the pail with one hand and seized one hind leg with the other, and held on firmly. After hopping a few steps and some pretty severe kicks and jerks to free herself, made all to no purpose, she "accepted the situation,"

and calmly submitted to the process till milked clean. Two or three such lessons cured her entirely. Such usage would probably have frightened her and made the habit worse had she been unaccustomed to being handled and petted. But a few lessons gave her an understanding of what was required, and subsequently any attempt of a repetition of the misdemeanor would be suddenly checked by merely placing my hand gently upon her leg.

"It is very important that cows of any age be milked clean; but more especially should this be practiced with heifers. One of the secrets of butter-making lie just here. I need not tell those that are used to the care of cows and dairying that the last drawn gill is nearly all cream, and when one of these little measures of milk is left in the udders of several cows, as a careless milker will often do, no insignificant quantity of the richest milk is lost every day.

"But this is not all or perhaps the greatest loss. Leaving milk in the cow's bag has a most deleterious effect upon the cow. Undoubtedly many cases of garget might be traced to this neglect. And the habit, if persisted in any length of time, will cause a gradual falling off in the milk, and the cow will be very unlikely to regain her full milking powers again. This matter is worth more than a casual thought. Heifers, the first year of their coming into the dairy, should be trusted to no inexperienced or careless milkers. A good milker will draw the milk in silence and quickly. Never allow yourself to leave a cow half milked, and then return and finish, thinking to get the full complement that the cow would give. This habit is nearly as bad as the one spoken of above, and its practice brings about the same results. By such means heifers often contract the habits of withholding their milk; a most perplexing habit and often not easily cured. A good milker will attend to his work and draw the milk clean as quickly as possible and establish the habit of giving down freely—a valuable item in a young cow."

We extract the above articles from the Michigan Farmer. There is a difference of opinion expressed in them in some ways, but both are right in others. Farmers, to know our business we must read and observe and learn from both sides of an argument. There are thousands of farmers that say agricultural papers are of no use; they can do without them; many things are wrong in them. Can you now say which is the best—to put our animal on, or leave it to its natural course until required to be utilized?

On the Breaking of Colts.

Wm. Strong of Kalamazoo, writes very sensibly a few hints to the Country Gentleman on the breaking of colts and their handling, which are sensible and proper. We believe that colts are better left alone, unless thoroughly broken when taken up for that purpose, but there is a difference between handling them judiciously and petting them so that they become vicious and stubborn. Mr. Strong thus comments on the "milk and water" plan as he calls it, by which pets are made.

"It is to commence breaking the colt when he is very young, say a few weeks old, and by good management and careful handling for two or three years, by the time he is old enough to be put to work, he will be all right, and will take hold and do just as you would have him.

"Now this all looks very plausible, and in some cases this treatment will no doubt answer, as some colts will make no trouble with any treatment. But in my experience, which extends to the breaking of many colts always attended with good success. I have almost always found that those colts which had been petted and had been taught many fine things, were by far the most stubborn and wilful, while colts as wild as deer and had never been handled a particle, when they found themselves in the hands of some one more powerful than they, would readily yield obedience, as fast as made to understand what was wanted.

"It does not take a colt a great while to learn the things necessary to make him handy to ride and drive. It is not to be understood that he can be made an old horse in two or three days, but he can be made in that time a kind and teachable colt, provided he has not

been nearly spoiled by petting. Which heifer is it that is inclined to use her horns too freely, when the owner comes too near her head? The pet always. Which sheep are the boys most afraid of? The pet of course. So it is with the colt. If he has been petted all his life, he has learned more things that are an injury to him than benefit, and it takes time to unlearn them."

The foregoing must not be construed as recommending unkind treatment, as scaring the colt, or throwing clubs at him when in reach, to make him wild, but to let him alone till old enough to use.

How to Acquire and Keep Property.

I would never advise a young man to learn a mechanical trade with a view of following it for life as a means of subsistence and a competency in old age; but I would carefully advise every young man to become familiar with, and, if possible, master of, the trade most nearly allied to the occupation he intends to pursue. For instance, if I thought of dealing in cloths or ready-made clothing, I would learn the tailor's trade; if I thought of spending my life in a shoe store, I would learn the shoemaker's trade; if I intended to devote myself to farming—the best and noblest occupation of all, as it is the base upon which all other trades and professions rest—I would rather learn the carpenter's and joiner's trade than any other, as it will often come into use on the farm. That farmer who understands this trade has many advantages over one who does not, and has to run to a mechanic for every little job required to be done on a farm. Even if you work but a short time at the trade, say one season only, under a good master, you will find the knowledge of great benefit to you many times. If a young man is robust and healthy, this trade, in connection with a good practical education, sufficient to qualify him as a teacher of a district school in the winter season, with the judicious use of his time in summer, devoted to his trade, is about as good a start in life as any young man can have, who is not furnished with a capital ready to his hand, and the rare faculty to know how to use it. Whether he learns the trade or not, let him, by all means, be sure to acquire a good practical school education, sufficient at least to fit him for a first class common school teacher; for in no other way can a young man who has to lay the foundation of his own fortune do so well, learn so much of human nature, which will be of the greatest use to him in after life, as to follow for a few seasons the occupation of a district school teacher.

A Chinese Will.

A Chinaman died, leaving his property to his three sons, as follows: To Fum-Hum, his eldest, one-half thereof; Nu-Pin, his second son, one-third thereof; and to Ding-bat, his youngest, one-ninth thereof. When the property was inventoried, it was found to consist of nothing more nor less than seventeen elephants; and it puzzled these three heirs to decide how to divide the property according to the terms of the will, without chopping up the seventeen elephants and thereby seriously impairing their value. Finally they applied to a wise neighbor, Sun-Punk, for advice. Sun-Punk had an elephant of his own. He drove it into the yard with the 17 and said, "Now we will suppose that your father has left these 18 elephants. Fum-Hum, take your half and depart." So Fum-Hum took his nine elephants and went his way. "Now, Nu-pin," said the wise man, "take your third and get." So Nu-pin took his six elephants and travelled. "Now Ding-bat," said the wise man, "take your ninth and begone." So Ding-bat took two elephants and absquatulated. Then Sun-Punk took his own elephant and drove home again. Query: Was the property divided according to the will?

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