

of the beautiful Napa valley attracted my attention, and without having seen it I purchased one hundred acres of land at two dollars per acre. It was hilly and well wooded, and my cabin cost me little besides the labor of my own hands.

I cannot detail the struggles of the first year or two. They would fill your entire number. The "Job's comforters" among my friends said: "What can you do with such land?—it is fit for nothing." But I knew better. There were two beautiful springs of running water; there was also a little level land, enough on which to locate a house and garden. I did not aim high at first. I bought a trio of turkeys, and the first years raised twenty-four and feed enough for a much larger flock later on. On holidays we dined on the extra gobblers. Unfortunately there were more of them than we could have wished. The next year we raised one hundred and marketed seventy-five, on which we allowed at least a net profit of one dollar each. Not much, you will say, for two years' work. Ah, but think of the stock of health thrown in. As we had made a living beside, living principally, it is true, on what we could raise and such game as I could shoot, I allowed that \$75 for interest on \$400 for two years was not so bad. Besides this, my land is better worth five dollars an acre now than it was two dollars when I bought it.

I am always cautious; had I not been I would have started with a dozen trios instead of one, but it was only an experiment and I had no money to waste. The secret of turkey raising in this country is to keep them from wild animals at night, and to keep them from lice at all times. Do not let the old hens out with their flocks until the grass is dry, and be sure to shut them up at night. Any sort of coops will do, provided you keep them clean, whitewashed and free from lice. They should have a board floor, to keep out skunks and other four-footed enemies, but cover this with clean sand. As soon as the turkeys are big enough, let them roost in the trees, cutting off the lower limbs so that a fox cannot climb them. Double barbed wire about the trunks will also prove a protection. There are such quantities of grasshoppers and insects in these new countries that the turkeys will almost provide themselves

with food, besides the wild oats and weed seeds, which exist in great abundance.

Thank God, I shall never again stand behind a counter. I have increased the size of my cabin from two rooms to four, and while I still must make haste slowly, we have been happier, healthier, and have lived far better than we ever did in the city, East or West, on my modest clerkship's income. If the world goes hard with you, and you are not afraid of hard work, come and try it.

H. A. J.

Napa, Cal.

### ONLY EGGS AND CHICKENS.

**W**E are indebted to Mr. Felch's valuable book "Poultry Culture" for the subjoined extracts: Capt. J. E. Whilk in an article on the future capabilities of the country in poultry breeding" says: "France is perhaps the only nation that recognizes the poultry and egg trade as a source of wealth to its people, and protects and encourages it as it would any other business which brings a revenue to and better the financial condition of its citizens. Under this fostering care the poultry and egg trade of that country has grown year by year until it has reached gigantic proportions, not only meeting the demands made upon it for home consumption, but also supplying the English markets with more than \$13,000,000 worth of this class of food annually. The value of eggs and poultry consumed in France is estimated at \$110,000,000; add to this the exports to England and we have \$123,000,000, which represents an industry that is looked upon by too many of our farmers and business men as being "too insignificant to merit consideration."

"In 1878 a convention of butter, cheese and egg producers was held in Chicago, the most careful and reliable statistical reports that could be gathered were placed before them, and we find that the annual production of eggs was valued at \$180,000,000, and the poultry sold at \$70,000,000," and all this from a business "too insignificant to merit consideration."

Mr. Felch says further that "It is the duty of all men who have the development of the country at heart to encourage this important industry." The above figures, quoted from Poultry Culture must be greatly augmented, in the last ten years rapid progress has been made and the sum now represented would be far in excess of even those enormous figures.