

Confessions of an Agricultural Writer.

Mr. Harris, so well known to the readers of the American Agriculturist, says, in the last number of that journal:

"I have now lived for ten years on this farm, and have written 'Walks and Talks' every month during this time. I feel somewhat ashamed to think how much of my purely personal matters I have presented to the public. I commenced to write without thinking; I told precisely what happened. Unfortunately, what happened proved to be largely mistakes and failures. I sent to Gregory, of Marblehead, for some seed of his best variety of onion, and sowed it on land that I should now think too poor to raise white beans and too weedy to sow to buckwheat. You can imagine the result. My first crop of oats was eight bushels per acre, and of barley twelve bushels. Farming is slow work. I have not yet got my land anything like as clean as I want it. I keep working and hoping." "Yes," says the Deacon, "and walking and talking."—Precisely. That is what I want to get at. I have told of so many disappointments and discouragements that while, as I said before, I commenced this series of articles little thinking that I should continue to write them so long, yet I do not know how to stop. I believe in farming, and feel sure that it can be made not only a pleasant but a profitable business. And if my land is getting cleaner and richer and my crops larger and more profitable I hope to be excused for saying so. I have told of my failures and the reasons for them. I want to tell of my successes—if I ever have any. I think the readers of Agricultural papers do not need information so much as exhortation. What we need is encouragement. We want to believe that good farming will pay—and it most certainly will. Or, if it does not, no other business in the community can long continue to prosper."

Vegetable Instinct.

If a pan of water be placed within six inches of either side of the stem of a pumpkin or vegetable marrow, it will in the course of the night approach it, and will be found in the morning with one of the leaves in the water. This experiment may continue nightly until the plant begins to fruit. If a prop be placed within six inches of a young convolvulus, or scarlet runner, it will find it, although the prop may be shifted daily. If, after it has twined some distance up the prop, it be unwound and twined in the opposite direction it will return to its original position or die in the attempt, yet, notwithstanding, if two of these plants grow near each other, and have no stake around which they can entwine, one of them will alter the direction of the spiral, and they will twine around each other.

Duhamel placed some kidney beans in a cylinder of moist earth; after a short time they commenced to germinate, of course sending the plume upward to the light, and the root down into the soil. After a few days the cylinder was turned one fourth around, and again and again this was repeated, until an entire revolution of the cylinder was completed. The beans were then taken out of the earth, and it was found that both the plume and the radicle had bent to accommodate themselves at every revolution, and the one in its efforts to ascend perpendicularly, and the other to descend, had formed a perfect spiral. But although the natural tendency of the roots is downward, if the soil beneath be dry, and any damp substances be above it, the roots will ascend to reach it.

Mr. Tupper of Round Hill, Annapolis County, N. S., and Mr. Starratt of Paradise, showed bull calves at the Annapolis Agricultural Society, that were under seven months old, and weighed respectively 636 and 664 lbs.

There are some people who believe that gilt-edged butter can be made from the cream of any well-fed cow—if one knows how to do it. There are others who believe it can only be made from the milk of Jersey cows; these latter have Jersey cows for sale.

INDIANS AS FARMERS.—It is said that the Indians of Bad River secured fine crops last year, and the following will show the amount raised: oats, 3,000 bushels; corn, 1,000 bushels; potatoes, 5,000 bushels; hay, 300 tons; ruta bagas, 2,000 bushels, besides getting 1,000 bushels of cranberries and two tons of wild rice.

An unfavorable year should always be a profitable one for a good farmer; then he is to make money, if ever. In favorable years crops are abundant and prices are low. With rich, deep-ploughed land, drought need not be feared, and average crops can be grown, which will bring two prices. It is the good farmer only who ever makes money.

CHARCOAL FOR HOGS is frequently prescribed in agricultural papers, without any directions as to quantity. It should not be given carelessly and at random. Good fresh charcoal, properly pulverized may be given at the rate of one teaspoonful for every hundred pounds of animal, whatever its size may be, and at this rate will do no harm nor hurt the animals, and may be often very useful.—Country Gentleman.

A NEW MALADY—An editor says, "We have lately heard of the diagnosis of a new disease discovered by our associate editor, Dr. S., not long since. A lady of remarkable conversational powers approached our medical friend with—"Dr. S., I have a very sore tongue." "Let me look at it," says the doctor. The unruly member was duly protruded. "It is sun-burnt, madam, sun-burnt," remarked the doctor, who suddenly recollected that his professional services were wanted in another direction.

DEER IN THE ROYAL PARKS.—The number of deer kept in Windsor Great Park, on an average of the last ten years, is 1655, as appears from a return just issued; the number killed is 128, and 16 are annually required for the Royal Hunt. The net cost is estimated as under £1,500 a year. In Richmond Park, Hampton Court Park, Bushey Park, and Greenwich Park, the number of deer kept is 2,889; the number killed per year, 372; the estimated cost annually, £1,894. At Phoenix Park, Dublin, 730 are annually kept, 106 annually killed, of which 30 are given to the poor, and 24 sold; the remainder for distribution in Her Majesty's service. The average net annual cost is £203.

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