

Domestic and Miscellaneous.

THE FARMER'S SONG.

Success to the jolly old farmer,
 Who sings at the tail of his plow—
 The monarch of prairie and forest,
 'Tis only to God he may bow!
 He is surely a fortunate fellow;
 He raises his bread and his cheese;
 And though hard is his labor in summer,
 In winter he lives at his ease.

When the reign of winter is broken,
 And spring comes to gladden and bless—
 When the flocks in the meadow are sporting,
 And the robin is building her nest—
 The farmer walks forth to his labor,
 And manly and firm is his tread,
 As he scatters the seed for the harvest,
 That yields to the nations their bread.

His banks are all chartered by nature—
 Their credits are ample and sure;
 His clerks never slope with deposits,
 Pursued by the curse of the poor;
 His stocks are the best in the market;
 His shares are the shares of his plow;
 They bring the bright gold to his coffers,
 And pleasure and health to his brow.

When his fields with rich harvests are teeming,
 And the reapers go forth to their toil,
 None so happy and free as the farmer—
 Possessor and lord of the soil;
 He sings while he roams his broad acres,
 As none but a farmer can sing,
 And would not change his condition
 For the splendor and pomp of a king.

When his crops are all gathered and sheltered,
 And his cattle are snug in the fold,
 He sits himself down by the fireside,
 And laughs at the tempests and cold.
 A stranger to pride and ambition,
 His duties he strives to fulfil,
 Determined whatever betides him
 To let the world jog as it will.

His trust is in Him who has given
 The seasons, the sunshine, and rain,
 Who has promised him 'seed time and harvest,'
 So long as the earth shall remain;
 And if from his duties he wander,
 Led on by his venturesome will,
 Through life and his changing relations
 God's providence follows him still.

THE EFFECTS OF COSMETICS ON THE SKIN.

The deep interest I take in the moral improvement of my young countrywomen, more particularly those who are so fortunate as to be the wives and daughters of farmers, must be my apology for the following remarks upon the article in the January number of the *Agriculturist* on the "Effects of Cosmetics on the Skin." I shall therefore ask no other excuse for expressing my difference of opinion, nor for pointing out what I conceive to be mistaken views on the subject, feeling very sure that a little serious reflection will bring your correspondent over to my old-fashioned way of thinking. Let me first say, how-

ever, that I agree entirely with her observations on the different kinds of soap, alcoholic preparations, &c.

We know that all kinds of soap are more or less injurious to a delicate skin, and in cold weather their too frequent use should be dispensed with, as much as possible; but when necessary, the skin should be protected afterwards, for a little while, from the air. Therefore, when cleanliness requires it for the face and neck, they should be washed just before retiring at night; and in the morning, nothing more will be wanted than the usual sponge bath of pure, cold, soft water, and a coarse rubber vigorously applied. Some skins will chafe under the most careful treatment that can be bestowed upon them; while others will continue soft and smooth, though exposed to every wind that blows, and seem to be proof against all kinds of domestic labour. For the first of these, the best purifier would be corn, or bean meal, or palm-oil soap, followed by a few drops of honey rubbed on while the hands are wet. Fine dry salt acts very pleasantly on the skin; rendering it soft and smooth, and has also the advantage of strengthening the system, on which account it is highly recommended by physicians. The best way to apply it, is, to draw on a pair of very coarse cotton or linen knitted gloves, that have been frequently dipped in strong salt and water, and dried after each immersion, and with them rub until the skin looks red, and the blood circulates freely.

But it is the second part of your correspondent's remarks that I intended particularly to notice. That the writer does not speak from personal experience I think is evident, or she would not say that "rouge can be employed, without injury, to brighten a lady's complexion."

Every school girl knows that even the common carmine in her paint box, if put on the cheeks with water, can be washed out without leaving a permanent mark. I have been much in fashionable French society where the use of rouge was not only considered unblameworthy, but in certain cases openly vindicated: yet its deleterious effects upon the skin were undoubted, and openly lamented, as producing a sallow stain, which, as it cannot be removed by ordinary means, makes a continuance of the bad practice seem necessary. And a bad practice it is, in sober sadness, for any woman; but for women living in this bright, beautiful country—for the wives and daughters of American farmers, even to think of using rouge and pearl powder, would be ridiculous, could it be contemplated in any other light than as a degradation? They, too, who enjoy the glorious privilege, not to be too highly prized, of living in the pure, health-giving breath of heaven—who are at liberty to exercise day on horseback, and roam at will over hills and fields. I will not think so badly of them as to suppose that they would condescend to tolerate the use of such mis-called beautifiers. It is true, a pale cheek is not esteemed so lovely as the one tinged with

"Celestial rosy red, love's proper hue," nor is a dark, or coarse skin thought so desirable as one fairer and more delicate; but does not every one know instances among their friends, of faces by nature ugly, to which intelligence, benevolence, and good temper impart the characters of real, soul-like beauty? Believe me, God's handiwork cannot be im-