

over the ocean, and many seeds are no heavier than dust. The sea water does not destroy many seeds. Entada seeds have floated 3000 miles, from the West Indies to the Azores, and have afterwards been grown. There are many arguments in favour of seeds being brought in such ways to islands.

But there are likewise strong arguments against this view. The direction of the winds in the Atlantic is in favour of their bringing American and not European plants to the Azores, yet we have seen that there are fewer American plants there than in either the Madeiras or Canaries. St. Helena and Ascension have no land birds, but an African vegetation, and though nearly midway between Africa and America, they have scarcely a single American type of flowering plants. Kerguelen's land has a Flora that must have come not from its nearest but from its most distant land in the Southern Hemisphere. The islets do not contain terrestrial mammals. The Australian flora consists chiefly of gum trees and leguminous plants, but not one of them has found its way to New Zealand, which would have been the case if New Zealand owed its flora to ocean currents and winds.

Without going into further details or arguments, I may state that the view which seems to be the correct one, according to our present state of knowledge, is that the islands which lie near continents, as Great Britain, Ceylon, Madagascar, Japan, Newfoundland, the Falkland Islands, and others, were once united to the continents to which they are adjacent; that they derived their Floras from those continents, and that as these large islands have lessened in extent and become detached, so the oceanic islets have done so in a greater degree. Islands diminish in size towards the centres of the great oceans.

Such an explanation necessarily assumes great physical changes, the lapse of long periods of time, and the probable death of many species, and moreover gives to our existing species a great antiquity. G.L.

#### MAKE IMPROVEMENTS THAT PAY.

I could recall instances where farmers went ahead with improvements, without counting the cost, till it took the farms to pay for them. Improvements are a nice thing, if one has the ready cash to make them; if not, beware of the temptation. Only those should be made, at first, that will return the outlay again.—Farming should be conducted on business principles. If a merchant is not able to own a store, he rents one. If a farmer has not money to erect new buildings, he had better get along with his old ones. If a merchant invests money, he expects to get it all back, and more too. If a farmer buys manure or Merino sheep, he should be careful that they are so used that they return the original cost and a profit. If a farmer lays out money in ditching, he should do it where two or three crops will pay it back with interest.

A little learning, in agricultural science, is a dangerous thing, if it is not balanced with judgment. I remember a farmer who owned some hills, or rather he was in debt for some. The soil was sandy loam, except the crests of the hills, which were clay—the top soil having washed down. It was well, enough, perhaps,—a wise provision of Nature, our Scientific Editor might call it,—to make the difficult hill tops poor and the crops so very light

thereon, and the valleys rich, and the crops heavy in them, so that the honest farmer could gather the reward of his labor without toiling up the hill-side. But our farmer had read the advantages of underdraining, and among them that the land would not wash, as the water would sink into the drains, and not flow from the surface. So he dug ditches up the dry hill sides, and opened the clay crests, and put tik in them. Did the heavy thunder showers hereafter linger on the sharp, hard pinnacles, and sink gently down to the artificial channels? Not a bit. In its wrath the water tore up the earth deeper than the drains and sent the little tiles in a heap to the bottom.

I was about to moralize further on the foolishness of squandering money in enterprises that are scarcely begun, ere they are abandoned for something more enticing, or from a fear that they will not prove profitable; but it recalls disagreeable recollections, and I quit.—*Rural New Yorker.*

**WINTER RULES.**—Never go to bed with cold or damp feet. In going into a colder air, keep the mouth resolutely closed, that by compelling the air to pass circuitously through the nose and head, it may become partly warmed before it reaches the lungs, and thus prevent those shocks and sudden chills which frequently end in pleurisy, pneumonia, and other serious forms of disease. Never sleep with the head in the draught of an open door or window. Let more cover be on the lower limbs than on the body. Have an extra covering within easy reach, in case of a sudden and great change of weather during the night. Never stand still out of doors, especially at street corners, after having walked even a short distance. Never ride near the open window of a vehicle for a single minute, especially if the ride has been preceded by a walk; valuable lives have thus been lost, or good health permanently destroyed.

**CHEERFULNESS.**—A woman may be of great assistance to her husband in business by wearing a cheerful smile upon her countenance. A man's perplexities and gloominess increase a hundredfold when his wife moves about with a continuous scowl upon her brow. A pleasant cheerful wife is a rainbow set in the sky when her husband's mind is tossed with storms and tempests; but a dissatisfied and fretful wife, in the hour of trouble, is like one of those fiends who delight to torture lost spirits.

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