

**Mr. Slow and his Friends.**

BY T. H.

(Continued from Feb'y. No.)

Enter Mr. Strict Economy :

"Good day, Mr. Slow, I hope you and the wife and the family are all well. I had business up the line, was going to see my old friends Mr. Sharp, Mr. Dollar, and Mr. Management; have been intimately acquainted with them for many years, though I do not visit them as often as in their younger days; they are all well to do and I think care less for my society than formerly, though very much of their success in life is due to the friendly advice I gave them in former days, which I am glad to see they have profited by. The snow being deep and the traveling heavy, I thought I would call in and rest awhile, and have a friendly chat with you; though I must own I have not classed you among my intimate friends, nevertheless I hope we may become more intimate in future; and as I am naturally fond of talking when I have got a good listener, I trust you will allow me the privilege of saying a few words in a friendly way. To begin, then, I thought I saw Mr. G. Management going across the fields as if he had just left your house. I hope I am correct in supposing he has been having a friendly chat with you, in fact I feel sure of it, as I noticed the boys were at work fixing up the cattle shed, and one of them rubbing down the cows with a whisp of straw. All very right and proper. But as I was about to remark that Mr. M. is a very fine man and a good friend when you come to know him, and will teach you many things most valuable to know; yet would I offer a few remarks on my own observations and experience. I am, as you are probably aware, pretty well to do, and have practiced my principles all my life until it has become a fixed habit with me. I began early to save, a little, a very little at first, as I had only my earnings, and wages were very low when I was young; but I was diligent and careful, wasted nothing that I could readily save, bought nothing I could not pay for, unless it was something I could not possibly do without, and which I saw would bring me a handsome return. To be sure I went in debt for my farm and some necessary implements to work with, also some good bred stock, but I took good care of all these and they soon repaid me for all my attention. I always looked well into a transaction to see if it would return a profit for the outlay. I always made my payments promptly, even though I had to borrow a little money at times to meet my engagements; by these means I avoided paying heavy interest, and never had any costs to pay. I avoided the taverns as much as possible, though I always paid for such accommodation as I received. If I made use of a stable I paid for it, or if I enjoyed the benefit of a bar-room fire I left sufficient remuneration with the landlord to reimburse the outlay, but I drank no whiskey. I ran but few store bills. I bought as much as possible for ready money, and bought only useful and necessary articles; these I soon learned to buy cheaply for cash, and afterward to take good care of them; thus I moved slowly along, always looking well ahead, avoiding every superfluous expense so long as I owed a dollar, earning a dollar or two by an extra effort, sometimes only fifty cents, or even twenty-five when I could not do better; took care of it when I got it; always looking to see there was a margin of profits, and that I was not losing more than I earned by neglecting more important matters. The result was I soon got ahead, stopped paying interest, and had money to lend; this I invested carefully, looking more to the security than to a high rate of interest; always got my interest

punctually, and never lost any principal; consequently I have had very few drawbacks in my career, and have had more real enjoyment than most men, because I have had few disappointments except such as were absolutely beyond my control; therefore I look forward to a comfortable existence for the remainder of my allotted time, knowing that my family will be comfortably provided for, should I be suddenly called away from them, as I feel sure that the same principles will be strictly adhered to by them after my departure. And now, Mr. Slow, take my advice and try my method. It is never too late to begin to act right, and I feel sure you will never regret having made the acquaintance of your sincere friend and well wisher, Strict Economy. I must now take leave of you and proceed on my journey. Good day." Exit S. E.

Mr. Slow, to wife.—"Well my dear, I declare this has been one of the luckiest days of my life. We have made the acquaintance of two of the best and most influential men in this country both in one day. I am only sorry I did not know them sooner, they seem so friendly and so disinterested. I wonder we never thought of these things before. I declare I feel ever so much better than I did in the morning, things seem so much more clear than they ever did before; and I do believe that more than half our difficulties are of our own creation, and just for the want of a little waking up, so that people may see things in their proper light. I declare it sets me to thinking more than I ever did before. But let us get ready for bed now, for it's getting late, and I feel anxious to get up early in the morning and see if I can't begin to work on this new system. I want to begin to put it in practice right off. I see I have lost too much time already."

"But, Mr. Slow, you remember what Mr. Management said about reading a chapter in the Bible before going to bed?"

"Oh yes, I had forgotten that; but it is getting late now and the children are all gone to bed, so we will say our prayers to night, and begin the Bible to-morrow night."

"Well, I will remind you of it to-morrow night."

"Yes, do."

"And now let us retire."

**Cultivation of Sorghum for Sugar.**

The production of sugar for home use is said by agricultural writers to be the most important practical question of the day before the American people. We have inquiries on the subject from some of our readers, asking for further information on it, showing that in Canada, as well as in the States, the importance of encouraging the growing of all that farms can profitably produce for home consumption is engaging our attention.

Sorghum has been sown in different parts of the United States for some years, and the experiments of making from its juices syrup and sugar have been from all the reports very successful. One variety especially, the Early Amber Cane, is spoken very highly of. At the last Minnesota State Fair the officers of the State Agricultural Society, in order to demonstrate the real value of the cane, and also to test the evaporators and mills used in its manufacture, purchased an acre of cane, which, when stripped and headed, weighed 19,914 pounds. In a field row of 290 feet in length, with hills three feet apart, there were raised 456 stalks of cane, and 282 suckers unfit for sugar making purposes. The average height of the cane stalks was ten feet, and the average weight two pounds each. Messrs. Kenney and Rice, who are associated in the pro-

duction of sugar from this cane, claim that they can realize from fifty to one hundred dollars per acre in its cultivation for sugar. The area devoted to the cultivation of this crop increased since 1875 from 1,534 to 2,789 acres. It is said there is no difficulty in producing 200 gallons of syrup on an acre of good land, cultivated precisely as corn. Another reports from 160 to 260 gallons per acre as the yield. The per centage of sugar has found to be less when fresh cut and ground than after laying a while before being ground.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, U. S., in his last report, says of the variety of sorghum called the Minnesota Early Amber, "I procured as much of the pure well-cured seed as possible, and distributed the same in every Congressional district in the United States. The results of this distribution have been uniformly favorable, and the variety is recognized as a great acquisition, yielding everywhere a large amount of rich saccharine juice, which, under proper treatment, gives a first-class article of cane sugar and syrup, the yield being from 120 to 250 gallons of heavy syrup to the acre." His concluding remarks on the subject show that while sorghum has been proved to merit a trial here, any experiments should at first be on a small scale. He says: "The experiments thus far made have scarcely been sufficient to accurately determine the actual cost of the production of sugar from these sources, but they have sufficed to settle the question of its production with no other care than is required in making good butter and cheese."

**Renovating Fruit Trees.**

The very great disparity of the fruit offered for sale in our market must proceed from some cause. There are offered in our market here for sale as choice fruits as are to be found anywhere on the continent, while there are exhibited in the same market fruit of the same variety scarcely worth a picking. This may, we admit, be partly owing to the soil and to the natural position of the orchard. But there is another reason for this disparity. When the fruit trees are properly cared for and supplied with a sufficiency of food, the fruit is almost invariably of excellent quality, good size and handsome appearance; when, as a neglected or starved tree, it bears wretched fruit. There are throughout the country too many farms, gardens and orchards in this neglected condition. Good healthy trees have been quite the exception. Starved, stunted, half dead trees are the rule. We have seen such orchards, planted many years, and not paying interest on the expenditure and ground rent for the site. Were there no other remedy than grubbing out the old trees and re-planting, there would be some excuse for allowing the trees to remain as they are. But there is a remedy, easy of application for all.

In almost every instance the poor fruit is the result of starvation (the term starvation is as applicable to vegetable as to animal life). Their roots are extended in vain in search of food; disease is the natural result of the want of food; the trees cannot produce such fruit as they would were they supplied with suitable nourishment. These trees might be healthy, and fruit-bearing abundantly, were they strengthened in time, and in our climate there is no season more suitable to do it than the present. Farmers have the means for renovating their starving trees. The farmyard furnishes all that is necessary. Spread over the surface of the fruit garden half decomposed manure, not merely around the trunks, but as far as the roots extend, and two or three inches thick. Leave the rest to the weather. The spring rains will bring the supplies of food within reach of the roots, and the trees will soon receive the needed nutriment. The deep hue of the foliage, the richer bloom, and the young healthy branches will give a promise of more abundant fruit and of a better quality.