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### LETTERS TO A COUNTRY FRIEND.

*My Dear Friend,*—You surely could not have expected that I would exhaust the subject of dress reform, or the relation of dress to health, in a single letter. A good sized volume would be required to do this. I shall be very pleased to reply to any inquiries that your good wife may wish to make.

I cannot recommend any particular breed of cows as being specially adapted for general purposes. General purpose animals, like general purpose implements and tools, are but indifferently well adapted for any purpose. If you want to go into butter making Jersey or Gurnsey cows in my opinion are what you should get. Every Jersey or Gurnsey cow however is not necessarily a good butter cow. The first-class dairy cows are rare and valuable, and even they must be fed with a great quantity of the best butter making food, or they cannot keep up a high standard of excellence. No cow can make butter unless supplied with food that contains the proximate elements of which butter is composed. The Channel Island breeds are not adapted for roughing it. A Jersey cow would starve or perish under conditions which would be comparatively favorable for one of our hardy native cows. Until you have really good pasture, such as the best of your meadow land would make; or soiling crops such as winter rye, green oats, mixed barley, peas and oats, fodder corn, etc., for early spring, summer, and autumn feeding to supplement poor pasture. Plenty of succulent feed, such as corn ensilage furnishes to supplement the hay, and warm stables for the winter months. I would recommend you to get good cows of our native stock.

I have listened to discussions in granges, agricultural societies, around the blacksmith's forge, and shop counters, about which was the best breed of cows for a particular locality, some special purpose, or for general purpose, until, for the moment, I was quite prepared to settle the question by drawing lots.

Now don't take it for granted that there are no well marked and defined points and characteristics, that should determine the selection of this or that particular breed for this or that locality or special purpose. The results of experiments and observations, extending over long periods, and conducted under conditions to be had only at properly equipped agricultural experiment stations and schools, are published in reports which can be had on application, and which would be a reliable guide in the selection of a breed to suit your requirements. As I have already intimated an animal of a breed which is specially suited to your requirements, may not be a good specimen of the breed, there are superior, good, indifferent and poor animals of every breed, only the practiced eye and hand, knowing in "points" and "feel," can be relied on to make a selection of the best in a herd. In response to your enquiry concerning ensilage, I send you several reports which will give you all the information you need in order to decide for yourself whether it would or would not be advisable to have one of your boys turned into a silo. I am strongly in favor of ensilage, such as can be preserved in a properly constructed silo.

The great event of the season, an old story and threadbare theme long ere this reaches you, was the Labor Day celebration. I shall not attempt a description of the procession, and only mention the event as being to my mind a most significant display of one of the most potent latent forces in our natural economy, a force too that will not always remain latent, or be satisfied with an occasional dress parade. Labor is King, even though capital, or rather cash, may sit upon the throne and usurp rule for a time, and Labor is capital, though cash, the representative of capital, claims to be. Therefore there is, and can be, no actual conflict or antagonism between labor and capital—a fact which laborers should recognize.

What impressed me most in connection with this creditable demonstration were the truckmen and their fine horses, and the evidence of harmony and good feeling between employers and employed.

Two hundred fine truck horses! Shades of the past—of the past that I can well remember, and that many another Halifaxian of fifty winters or summers would doubtless recall, when the trucking of the city was done by less than half-a-dozen small horses. What would you have said could you have revisited our streets, and have seen those stalwart steeds, have heard the thunder of their hoofs and their shrill neighing? What would you have thought of the little one-horse town? Would you not have been proud of its progress? Am I laying undue, exaggerated stress upon the one evidence of commercial progress? Possibly. You would probably have been more impressed with the assembling in one procession of three thousand tradesmen (it is said that there were that number in the procession).

Look at it as you will this demonstration afforded ample evidence of a very satisfactory growth and industrial condition—ample assurance too of a still more satisfactory growth in the coming years.

I had almost forgotten that I was also impressed in a way, and with feelings that I have not as yet attempted to analyze, by the display of the Stars and Stripes carried beside the Union Jack by standard bearers, ornamenting the horses' heads and flying from house tops, from windows and across the streets throughout the city. I do not recall that in all that long procession the British flag was unaccompanied by the Stars and Strips, but I did notice one instance of the United States flag being carried alone at the head of one of the unions.

I don't think that I felt in the least jealous for our flag, I am too confident of the loyalty of my fellow citizens to have cause for such a feeling. As far as I can recall or analyze my impressions, I was pleased with what seemed to me to be an expression of good will towards a neighboring and friendly nation. May the two flags ever wave in peace and harmony together.

The bouquets—Every man and boy in that procession wore a beautiful bunch of flowers—think of 3,000 bouquets! Where did they all come from? "Everywhere about us are they glowing" in this city. You who are yourself a lover of flowers must have been impressed with the conviction that