

Agricultural.

Help in the Farm House.

of long ago there went the rounds of papers a complaint from some New Hampshire farmer, to the effect that there is too much culture refinement, and education among the farmers' families and especially among the female portion of the families. That the daughters went to seminaries and became accomplished, requiring pianos, music, flowers and that on which they spend their time, from these causes become delicate and incapacitated to do hard work on a farm, such as their mothers and grandmothers did before them; that the young men, too, after and college life become dissatisfied with the farm. His remedy seems to be that in order to get back the old days of hard work and industry, schools, books, music, pictures, culture of all kinds must be banished from farmer's homes, and that the end of life must be work and getting. People have been cultivated and refined to such an extent that they are like hot-house flowers, fancy horses, good for nothing but and amusement. So says the Hampshire grumbler.

Limiting, however, the lack of physical strength and endurance, which is itself in localities and under circumstances where perfect mental and physical, ought to be, the grumbler is a long way from giving the true cause. These do have pure, bracing air, nourishment, out of door exercise and pure of sleep; and yet there is a constitutional weakness in the spinal troubles, nervous and chronic cases of all kinds seems possible to account for on the broad and pious ground of mental infidelity. But Providence has no more to do with it than the books, education and social graces with which the New Hampshire man finds fault. Such ill and constitutional troubles do not come from the doings or misdoings of chief sufferer, but from the carelessness or sin, for all combined, of their parents. I like to tell that man, and others, that the true cause of mental degeneration is to be found in wing-machines, horse-rakes, hay-cultivators, patent reapers, mowing machines, hay-forks, and huggable kind of implement, and make easy out of door farm work.

to explain my statement let me tell you of my grandparent, a two-to-do farmer owned no more than he could cultivate himself, perhaps, one hired man in time, or his own boys. That it was as much grass as he could in with, with scythes, raked with sickles, and got in with one horse and pitch-forked. His raised crops as he could cultivate of those times, and kept his stock than he could feed on his own. The women in such were, of course, able to do the work; and I claim that any coverage health can do the work of any farm needing two doors, and at the same time for mental culture if you like, but, understand, the men do no outside helps in the mowing machines and other things that I mentioned before. Men insist that women work as their mothers and grandmothers did, let them work like grandmothers.

the difference in farming of the last thirty years or more, men began to take so large a part of the work. The young man then bought a farm about his father's or took the old man as he married, began life in a step in advance of his getting a mowing machine, and the work of six or eight men on more land. Horses and hay tedders follow, and he more land and keeps more a butter and cheese market in which reaches nearly every New England, paying good prices. The more butter that goes to market weekly, the faster money comes in. More cows are land bought, followed by machinery. A large number of cows are bought, as a complete to the cows; and so, although more is able to care for ten times as much land, and stock of various kinds as his father did, yet his own land is much easier, more inside the farm house, more wife began life with her husband of love, health and amply willing helpmate in every way, as she thought, to do the work. All goes well with the child comes. In order to get the milk, butter, pork, and other work in proportion she overworked herself when she needed perfect rest from care, and so a tired, worn-out man that needs a great deal of rest makes many wakeful and many days for the moole.

who has this addition to her former work. Being of a good constitution she is able to endure it; and as time passes child after child is born with ever-increasing work; and, with the exception of two or three weeks at each help is provided. Think of a mother of three or four children; one an infant, that even at night is a draft on the mother's strength, as it draws its nourishment from her, not to speak of the broken sleep that all mothers must undergo. Well, she is up in the morning at half past four or five; has the milk of fifteen or twenty cows to care for, butter to churn, breakfast to get, pans and dishes to wash, little ones to prepare for school, and all the busy day no time to caress or care for the baby, except such as it is absolutely necessary to nurse it, when it is again turned off on the floor or cradle. The child that escapes final weakness from too much sitting, or rickets and kindred diseases from lying too quiet is fortunate. And so, day after day, and year after year, a tired and exhausted woman goes to bed at night, and rises in the morning not rested or refreshed. Is it any wonder that the young born under such circumstances have a no physical strength or endurance? There are often different results from all this, dependent upon the constitution of the wife and mother and her surrounding circumstances. Either her own health and life is the sacrifice, or she has delicate, weekly children; or insanity comes upon her. The statistics of the New England Insane Asylums shows too large a percentage of insanity among farmer's wives; and yet the reports do not indicate the true rate, as a large number of them, being harmless and hopeless cases are cared for at home and never reported at all. The mother who lives through to middle life or old age—a strong, vigorous woman herself, perhaps—never imagines that by the ignorant abuse of herself she commits a crime against her children and her children's children, and they are life long sufferers in consequence. The good farmer who piously shoves all responsibility for his ailing family on to an over-ruling Providence would know better than to grumble over or pray for his weak young stock when he was conscious that he had not properly cared for his breeding cattle. Are Jersey cows, Morgan colts, and Berkshire pigs of more importance than a wife or children? When will people learn that just as much care is needed to bring forth and rear a perfect race of human beings as is used in improving and perfecting a lower race of animals? Nor does the need cease end with birth. To say that such a man or woman has brought up a large family is often means that they were allowed to "come up as Topsy grew," with no more care than the calves got, fed and housed with but scant clothing, routed out of bed in the morning long before childhood and nature were ready to begin the day, overworked all through their growing years—what wonder that a distaste for farm life is acquired by the young people, and that today New England farms are so many of them deserted by the sons and daughters who ought to accept them? Happily, thanks to the education and books that worry the New Hampshire man so much, there is an improvement in many localities, but it is not general enough. Not by any means would I abolish any improved tools and machinery for doing farm work or any other labor; but let each man realize that for every help that he has to enable him to cultivate more land and keep more stock, corresponding help must be provided in the house, or wife and children will pay the penalty. And let every mother make it as much a matter of conscience and duty with her religion, to see to it that a sin and a crime is not committed against her children that will entail upon them a life of ill-health and misery.

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Table with columns for Stations, Going South, and Going North. Includes times for Listowel, Stratford, and Huron.

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GEORGE DRAPER.

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