

the winter, in about the same proportion that would be required to save damp hay or green oats.

SPRING—FARM WORK.—The last week has had important influence as to ushering in the beauties of Spring. A genial sun and balmy breezes have conspired to remove the insignia of stern Winter's authority, and to prepare the ground for the operations of the husbandman. Having been for months shut out from the contemplation of the pleasant fields and all that is beautiful in nature, it affords us unspeakable pleasure to go forth at this season, under the soothing influence of a vernal atmosphere—to contemplate the sun whose cheering rays diffuse light and gladness around, and to have our cheeks fanned by gentle zephyrs, which awaken every pleasing emotion of the soul and fill the mind with a holy and ethereal delight—to behold all nature clad in smiles, and the various objects around, animate or inanimate, rejoicing in the advance of that season, when youthful nature begins to expand its budding beauties to the eye—the lamplings gamboling on the green, and the melody of the birds waking the echoes in our groves, and rendering our woods vocal with their songs of praise—all this is calculated to excite the kindest affections of our nature—to teach us the most expansive benevolence—to teach us to look from nature up to nature's God, to learn lessons from all around us as to our duties and our hopes, and to bend our hearts in thankfulness to the Great Giver of all good.

The present is a season of the utmost importance to our agricultural population. Should farmers be found wasting the precious moments of Spring, they may expect nothing else than deficiency in harvest. All the objects on the farm at this season require particular attention. The stock, particularly the breeding animals, require peculiar care. It is a known fact that more animals are lost after the arrival of the fine weather in spring, than even during the severity of winter. When farmers fear a scarcity of hay during the winter months, they are in the habit of stinting their cattle in their allowance. By this means it frequently happens that from not having a sufficient supply of nourishing food, the animals are in a miserable weak condition, and are often lost even after having been turned out to pasture. Such will frequently be found to be but poor policy. Cattle that have been stinted frequently require to be stalled till late in the month of May, or it may be till June, because for very weakness they cannot pick up enough to live upon outside. Did farmers feed their cattle well while their provender did last they would have them in so healthy a condition, that they might be turned out some weeks before the half starved cattle, and be able to pick up a living by browsing, &c., when the latter would inevitably be lost. It is miserably short-sighted policy which leads some farmers to half starve their animals from an idea of saving. We have read of an individual who undertook to teach his horse to live upon nothing. But he unfortunately made the discovery; that as soon as his horse had acquired the desired object, he died. There is an anecdote told by temperance folks, that a mother being remonstrated with for giving gin to her child, excused herself by saying that if she did not give the child the gin, it would have such an appetite that she would not be able to supply it with bread. So with some of our farmers; they would think it a capital thing if some invention could be made by which cattle would be prevented from having such an appetite, even although it

should be something at the expense of their healths and they are frequently inclined to value an animal not according to its intrinsic worth, but by the smallness of the quantity it will eat. We say out upon such a principle. Treat your cattle well and they will treat you well. Do as you would be done by, is a rule which you should observe, even towards your domestic animals, and do not suppose them so totally destitute of moral feeling as not to make a grateful return for your kindness. Working cattle particularly, at this time of the year, require good provender, or they will be altogether unequal to the labor expected from them.

An important point at this time of the year is, have all the farming implements in complete order. During the long winter months of our climate this should occupy the farmer's attention. There is almost nothing which serves more to retard a farmer during the operations of spring, than his being obliged to make or repair his tools at the time when he should be using them. We hope that none of our readers during the past months have been paying so much attention to politics, as to neglect this. Politics is a very good thing in its own place. It is all right that farmers should be acquainted with the doings of their legislators, and that the acts of those in authority should pass under the watchful surveillance of those for whose benefit they act; but farmers should not neglect their business for such things, or allow their thoughts to be so much engaged by them as to omit their other duties. And they will not prove very satisfactory if he finds at this season the want of those articles, which a little seasonal attention during the winter months might have easily provided. A farmer should by this time have all his preparations made for the coming season. He should have all his agricultural implements in good order—his ploughs, harrows, hoes, harnesses, carts, &c., ready for immediate use. Nothing sometimes can more plainly indicate the difference between a good and a bad farmer, than seeing him, when he wants a piece of work done, going to his neighbor to borrow a tool which he may never return, and spending as much time in borrowing and returning it, as would have almost made a new one or repaired an old one.

Don't allow your own or your neighbor's boys to be going about popping at the birds about your farm, to the manifest danger of their own and other people's lives. The destruction of our feathered warblers by the murderous hands of our juvenile urchins, is a practice repugnant to the feelings of every well regulated mind. These creatures have been created by the Great Author of nature both for the pleasure and advantage of man, and serve the most valuable purposes in the economy of husbandry. The extent to which they consume the insects which are the worst enemies of the farmer's crop, should render them valued by that class, as their best friends, and if they allow them to be destroyed, they can only blame themselves if they find their various crops become the prey of the different insects which infest them.

Fences should now be looked to, to prevent cattle from straying over the grass lands when the ground is soft, and cutting it up with their feet. There is a very bad practice among some of our farmers of allowing their cattle to pasture for some time in Spring, on the lands upon which they intend to cut hay the same season. By this the roots of the grass are pulled up, and the tender fibres of the plant so injured as almost to cause a failure of the crop the ensuing season. This is particularly the case on lands which have been lately seeded.