

than the favorable turn of the dice in gambling. Then there are the domestic trades which the great corporations find too small and scattered for their capacious maws. But a college graduate had not time for apprenticeship as a carpenter, mason, blacksmith, or tailor, before he entered college. So not one of these occupations is open to him when he goes out to choose a business for life. But in every country town, especially in his own, there is always a farm easily accessible, which, with a small capital in money, and the larger capital of his educated and earnest industry, will yield him a life of dignified independence and comfort which no other industrial occupation can warrant him. No other business is so frank, generous and above board. It has no secrets nor unfriendly competitions. It is the only one in which those who follow it make common stock of all their experiments and observations, and form clubs and societies, and support periodicals, to impart to each other all they have learned in the art of producing crops, raising and grading stock, improving and increasing orchard and garden fruits, and in every other process and department of agricultural industry and interest. In deed, there are four times more agricultural literature published than all other business occupations originate. Here, then, are a field and scope for the best learning and genius of an educated farmer, though he only tills fifty or fewer acres. He will always find the social and civil position in the town which his intellectual ability and moral worth fit him to fill. These are some of the considerations which, it may be hoped, will incline many of the recent college graduates to choose the dignified independence and comfort of the farmer's life.

ANOTHER VISIT TO ECHO FARM.

SINCE our last visit to Echo Farm not only the buildings have been greatly enlarged and improved but the number of thoroughbred Jersey cattle has been largely increased. Nearly every "grade" animal has been disposed of, and the remainder will soon be gone, as Mr. Starr has determined to keep none but "full bloods,"—such as are registered in the American Jersey Cattle Club herd book. In addition to the natural growth of the herd, Mr. Starr has increased it by the purchase of some of the best cows that could be obtained. Two are imported animals, one being the mother of the bull "Litchfield." His half sister and her mother, an imported cow, are also among the herd.

This bull, it will be remembered, took the Centennial diploma and medal, and also the special first prize of \$250 given

by the American Jersey Cattle Club for the best Jersey bull, at the Centennial exhibit, and awarded by the Centennial judges. The same year our own State Agricultural Society awarded Mr. Starr a gold medal for the best herd of Jerseys, and gave "Litchfield" their silver medal for the best Jersey bull. This animal is in as fine a condition as ever, and nobly heads the herd.

The demand for "Litchfield" stock steadily increases. Not only are those who deal exclusively in "full bloods," purchasing it, but farmers nearer home who have grade or native cows are buying the less fancy bull calves of this "strain" of blood, so as to improve their stock. Calves, whether male or female, that are not of solid color and "black points"—though quite as good for all practical purposes, and preferred by some—do not command such a price as do those that possess these "fancy" points, and are consequently sold at prices which all who can afford to keep any cattle, can afford to pay. On the day of our visit a farmer from an adjoining town had just been buying one of these little bull calves—just as good for breeding purposes as the rarer animals of "solid" color for which fancy farmers are willing to pay such high prices.

It is a question which our farmers will do well to consider whether it is not more expensive for them to raise poor stock than that which readily commands a higher price. This point is so ably handled by a stock breeder from Canada, who has visited Echo Farm and who has published an account of the visit in the *Country Gentleman*, that we refer our readers to the following extracts, calling attention also to the facts stated regarding the light feeding which is one of the special features of Mr. Starr's management of his herd:

EDS COUNTRY GENTLEMAN—In calling attention once more to Echo Farm. I am fully aware that an able article thereon appeared in your columns some time ago. It has so long been called "a show place," "a rich man's hobby," &c., that by many it is looked upon as something to be admired, but which it is impossible to imitate. Nothing can be more erroneous than such an opinion.

The barns are a sight worth seeing, yet there is very little about them which cannot be carried out on a smaller scale by any farmer. The buildings are painted a light shade, much more pleasing and effective than the dark brown usually employed, and more clean and cheerful looking. And the neatness, cleanliness and order are something such as I have never seen before. If any one wants to see how a nice stable can be kept, let him send the stalls and gutters, then lay the bedding on the sand. When he comes to

sweep out the stable he will need nothing to convince him that the ease of cleansing the floors far more than compensates for the little labor of strowing sand, to say nothing of the better air prevailing, and the added cleanliness of the animals. Failing sand, any other absorbent would answer, though the sand looks better. These barns possess, in a greater degree than any I have ever seen, the advantages of ventilation and light. Not every one can afford buildings as spacious for the same number of stock, but the same attention to the rules of ventilation would greatly lessen the mortality among valuable cattle. And light has more to do with the comfort, cheerfulness, and consequently with the health of the animals, than is generally known. In Mr. Starr's stables there are no dark corners. No animal can fail or refuse its food, unnoticed; and the slightest departure from the prevailing law of order, cleanliness and health, can be detected at a glance, thus furnishing that "ounce of prevention" which is, indeed, worth the "pound of cure."

While I admired the interior arrangements, a man approached, wheeling a car that ran so noiselessly, I inquired the cause, and I found that the wheels were of rubber. I watched the man with some interest, as I was determined to see for myself the high feeding which produced such beautiful animals, and resulted in butter at a dollar a pound. To my amazement, the man took a little scoop, holding a quart, and placed in the feeding-box one scoopful of dry meal (equal parts of corn and oats ground together) and one scoopful of dry bran—and the others all received the same. Mr. Starr assured me that this was their regular evening feed, with all the dry hay they wanted. In the morning they were fed exactly the same, and by eight o'clock, every animal was turned out in the field, to remain in the fresh air till evening. When snow comes, the same allowance of meal and bran is sprinkled upon cut hay, and damped, and, at noon, each cow receives a quarter of a bushel of roots, principally mangolds. No warm or steamed food is ever given.

If this rigid system be an error, as I think it is, most certainly it is an error on the right side. Too often we find animals forced and stimulated beyond nature, so as to show well or obtain a fine butter record, but seldom, indeed, do we find the very light feeding practiced here. The careful but liberal feeder may, and often will, buy animals, and find them go back on his hands, feeling the change from their former pampered condition; but any such man, buying a cow fed at Mr. Starr's, may feel perfectly certain that she will improve with time, and prove better than represented. In fact these animals are, without exception, in the most robust and rugged health.