

ECONOMY.

To the Editors of the Central N. Y. Farmer.

Gentlemen,—Will you give place in your columns to a few desultory thoughts on Economy? I suppose you are not much troubled with communications from the ladies on this important subject—for I believe that we (as a class) have paid less attention to it, than gentlemen of small and reduced fortunes could desire. Dr. Johnson thought it was the duty of every individual to make some improvement in the chart of life; to point out the rocks and quicksands where he has suffered loss himself; and I suppose it is equally the duty of him who has sailed on a smooth sea, to leave his compass and his wake for the direction of future travellers.

Observation is worth something as well as experience; and when we see a poor debtor surrounded by a set of clamorous creditors, grasping the last cent which the law allows, we may realize all the evils of mismanagement and extravagance, without partaking of their bitter suit. My attention has been called to this subject, by the failure of several farmers, and as (in such cases,) whole families are involved in the general wreck, I trust I shall be pardoned if I offer a few suggestions to those wives and daughters who share proportionally in the weal or woe of the farmers' life.

First, if debts have been contracted, it is for you to save the means and help lay in store sufficient to meet those dues. I have always noticed that there was a better state of feeling in those families in which the woman knew something of business matters, than in those in which she is entirely ignorant of the extent of her husband's resources. In the latter case, it is not uncommon for her to desire and expect a supply of means which it is impossible for him to furnish. The short and decisive refusal, without the why's and wherefore's, is the end of the matter with him; but not so with her.—She thinks it over, the denial rankles deeper and deeper, till she half believes it was the result of unkindness alone—Now very likely if she knew all the circumstances of the case, she would not have expected or even asked for what she knew it was impracticable to purchase; for it must be remembered that we (a majority of us at least,) are reasonable beings, and of the majority, I know there is a class (though I acknowledge it with shame,) who are determined to gratify the suggestions of a giddy fancy, whether they are able or not. Many a farmer is injured if not positively ruined by the amount of his store bills. The silk dresses and satin shawls, the fine kid gloves and expensive bonnets, with all the corresponding things for table, parlour and chamber, create a style of things too expensive for the man who has no income but the products of a small farm. This passion for dress and fine living is owing altogether to a perverted taste, a false estimate which we place upon appearances. Rustic attire renders us none the worse, nor gaudy trappings none the better.

I have noticed also, that the plain farmer's fare, is giving place to the luxuries of the more opulent. Instead of the products of the farm alone, they feed you with the products of other climes.—Expensive tarts and pies, rich cake and sweatsmeats, with the mackerel, salad and steak, which are often bought, create debts to the butcher, larger than a farmer (unless he is a very wealthy one,) ever ought to pay. My plan is to live plain myself, and give my company the same sort of living. Better indeed to give them the plainest food, and furnish nought but cold water, "sparkling and bright," than present them with choicest viands, fine Java, and the best of Old Hyson, at the expense of our creditors. Let us not feel willing that others should suffer loss by our excesses. Let us not say their gains were obtained by fraud and oppression, and no matter if they do lose. It is enough for us to see that their demands, as far as we are concerned, are promptly met. Let us become like the women of the Old School, simple in our diet, economical in our dress, cheerful in our labor, and patient in our suffering. Ours is indeed a life of care and labor, but it is one favorable to the enjoyment of true happiness, and the cultivation of our moral nature. We may not sigh for the ease and indolence of the fine lady, for could we but feel the languor and ennui that oppresses her, we should sigh again for that healthful labor that calls us up at the rising of the sun, and gives us but little respite till the going down of the same. Now in recommending strict economy and labor, I do not

propose to abridge the comforts of life, but on the other hand to enhance all its joys. An active employment and simple diet give vigor and elasticity to the whole system. In fact they are the essential conditions of its regular and healthful action. Freedom from debt, and a consciousness of integrity, give satisfaction to the mind, such as the fraudulent debtor can never know.

Let it not be understood that we would encourage a mean and avaricious disposition, for this we consider still more reprehensible than a careless and prodigal one. But between two extremes, there is always a mean, and this is as true in household operations, as in the problem of Euclid. We may have all the real wants of life at a small expense, and in a simple way. We are surrounded by everything in nature to render our situation pleasing, comfortable and happy. Heaven smiles propitiously on our labors, for we have the bright sun and refreshing showers, without the asking—we have orchards and groves for the planting—and clustering roses and honeysuckles for the cultivation. I recollect that we were told in an Agricultural Address last year, that we must not cultivate flowers in old broken teapots and pitchers. Now as we are upon the principles of economy, and "pay as we go," we think this depends upon circumstances. If it is not convenient to pay a mechanic for a day's labor in making boxes, we had better use something else. Who would relinquish some cherished exotic, because she had nothing but an old broken pitcher to plant it in? I would rear some lovely plant or fragrant rose, if I had to beg the dust of the earth to nourish it, and the dews of heaven to water it. If I had nought but a hovel to shelter me, I should want a vine to creep over it, and sweet flowers to breathe their fragrance about it. It is the love of nature, the love of flowers, that gives us pleasure, and not the love of painted boxes, earthen jars, and china vases.

In relation to funds expended for the education of children, we have only to say, let them be expended judiciously.—Look well to it, that you get the worth of your money, for the country is filled with teachers who care as little for the improvement of their children, as the unfaithful hireling for the improvement of your farm. When we combine our efforts to educate aright the young, and overcome in them that repugnance to labor, which is so prevalent in our country, the condition of the farmer will be truly desirable. And it is for us to render it pleasing, not we who write, nor we who lecture about it, but for us who work. Habits of industry are formed far earlier by example than by precept, for the child who sees a whole household rise with the dawn and perform their allotted work with cheerfulness and pleasure, will naturally catch the spirit and copy the example of those around him. But he who dislikes labor may prate about industry, and lecture daily upon its advantages, but the child, so long as he remains a child, will wonder (if it is desirable,) why father don't work and mother too. A drone placed in a community where labor was universal, where it was considered honorable, and rendered profitable, would cease to be a drone; how much easier then, to learn the child whose habits are all unformed.

There have been foolish fathers among the farmers, who thought their sons must obtain some learned profession, instead of a knowledge of their own noble occupation—and there have been foolish mothers who have brought up their daughters in idleness and ignorance (at least of household affairs), hoping that they would marry wealthy tradesmen or fortune hunters. But we believe this ridiculous burlesque upon common sense, is giving place to more rational views and expectations. But we are digressing from the subject upon which we proposed to write, and also verifying the old proverb, that when a woman begins to talk she never knows when to stop. So I will add no more, for fear of wearying you and taxing the courtesy of our Editors with so long a communication.

ECONOMIST.

Oneida Castle, June, 1843.

IRISH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Following the example of England, a National Agricultural Society was formed in Ireland in 1841, since which no less than eighty-three auxiliary or district Societies have been organized, all of which appear to be in a prosperous condition, and exerting a highly salutary influence upon the agricultural interest of that country.—*L.*

BLACKBERRY SYRUP.—The following directions for preparing this article, pleasant for the taste, and the best remedy for the summer complaint among children, we find in the *Maine Cultivator*. To 2 quarts of the juice of blackberries, add 1 lb. of loaf sugar, half an ounce of nutmeg, half an ounce of cinnamon, pulverized. To this add half an ounce of cloves, and quarter of an ounce of allspice, pulverized. Boil altogether for a short time, and when cold, add a pint of proof brandy. Bottle carefully, and keep in a cool place for use.

FRENCH SAVORY SAUCE.—To 4 lbs. of veal fat from the kidney, cut small, add 1½ lb. ham, 1½ lb. rasped bacon, 5 or 6 chopped carrots, 8 small onions, a large bunch of parsley, 3 cloves, 2 bay leaves, some thyme, basil, mace, 3 lemons, (sliced without peel or seed,) and 1 lb. butter; boil them in any weak broth; skim; simmer for five or six hours; strain and keep the liquor for use.

FRENCH MODE OF COOKING POTATOES.—When the potatoes are boiled, cut them in slices and put them in a sauce pan, pour some onion broth over them; then add a piece of butter and keep the potatoes hot without boiling. Slice eight onions, and set them on the fire; when they are tender, take a large spoonful of flour which is to be well mixed with them, add salt, coarse pepper, a small table spoonful of broth or water, and a dash of vinegar. Let the onions gently simmer for a quarter of an hour, place them on the potatoes, and keep them hot till served.

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD IN LONDON.—The editor of the *Albany Evening Journal*, now abroad, in a recent letter from London, says:—"I was wondering this morning how much 'provant' was required to furnish this army of people with rations. An inquiry shows that 12,000,000 bushels of wheat are required annually to supply London with bread; that 120,000 tons of fish are caught here annually; the annual consumption of butter is estimated at 40,000,000 lbs., and the price varies from 25 to 37½ cents. Of meats I can get no estimate, but there is brought annually to Smithfield Market alone, 130,000 oxen, 450,000 hogs or pigs, 1,350,000 sheep or lambs, and 25,000 calves. Of milk, it is said that 11,000 cows supply the metropolis with 8,030,000 gallons annually, at an average price of 1s. 10d. per 8 quarts, (about five cents per quart.)"

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THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR is desirous of procuring the services of several competent persons to canvass the Province in the capacity of TRAVELLING AGENTS for that Journal. None need make application but those who can give unquestionable references.

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August, 1843.

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CHRISTOPHER ELLIOT.

Toronto, August 7, 1843.