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VOL. 10.-NO. 17.

SACKVILLE, N. B., THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1879.

WHOLE NO. 485.

## LITERATURE.

### The Honest Farmer.

From Harper's Weekly.

I have heard it said by a Londoner that though the country may be Arcadia, the people that live in it are pretty much like the Burlington Arcadians, after all. This cynical gentleman could never have seen Robert Foracre, who occupied the Manor Farm, in the town of Wilshire in which my youth was passed, and in whose quiet churchyard I hope to lay my bones. He was the very model of the honest English farmer, as represented upon the stage, which is, as everybody knows, but the reflection of human life. He had a round red face, always gleaming with good humor and moderate prosperity; his eyes were small, but bright and genial; his face reflected the simplicity and rectitude of his mind, the richness of his crops, and the warmth of the sun that ripened them, and when (as he often did) he mopped it with his pocket-handkerchief, it shone again like polished mahogany. For the most part agriculturists are much given to grumble. Old Jacob Arable, who occupied the next largest farm to Mr. Foracre's in our parish, was, for example, always complaining. In the very best season the country had had for years, our rector ventured to congratulate him upon it: "Come, Mr. Arable, you must allow that everything has worked together for good up to this date?" "Well, I don't know so much about that, Sir; there will be no damaged hay for the young calves." That is the way with what George Eliot calls "bovine" men: they are never satisfied with Providence; and what is worse, they are always wanting what civilized persons do not want—such as rain. I scarcely remember a summer when the country has not been represented as in a desperate state for lack of something or another more; and I have never seen a farmer who is not ready to complain. For my part, I use what influence I have to get fine weather always. I have noticed that the country gets over its troubles somehow; and then it lasts forever, which I, unhappily, shall not.

Well, Robert Foracre was a glorious exception to these wretched blunders. When I used to say, "I hope we shall have fine weather for the cricket match," he always answered, "I hope you will, Master James," though all the time his fields are parched, and his corn withered, and his cattle are dying. "I hope it will be wet to-morrow," he said, "I don't want to school, he said, 'I hope so, Master James,' though all his hay was lying out. When the squire asked him how his crops were getting on, he always answered, 'Nicely, Sir; and I recollect, boy as I was, how it surprised me once to see Farmer Foracre come out of the former part of the edifice one day like a goat and an equal."

My uncle raised his eyebrows when I told him of it, as though he could not make it out; for Mr. Foracre had no daughter, and no son, and no other pulled-out ministers of storm and wind to produce unpleasantness. As I grew older he became a rustic divinity who dispensed syllabus in an orchard. (I have never tested it since, nor even thought of it since the paper in which the other day the paper of the Sylabus, which I do not believe to be half so nice.) And when I got to be a man, and lost my illusions, this good farmer still remained to me as one of the noblest works of Providence within my limited horizon.

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the Duke of Gramplan, and he applied to Lawyer Smart, the Duke's steward and managing man, with this object.

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I remember the man well, for he was my uncle the rector's lawyer and more than once have I ridden over the fields and pastures of Boreston, where he lived, with documents for him from my relative. He had a good house looking on the street, with a large garden in its rear, and quite independent of the "office" establishment, with which, however, he was connected, and a good deal of money, which he used as I was, but it surprised me once to see Farmer Foracre come out of the former part of the edifice one day like a goat and an equal.

My uncle raised his eyebrows when I told him of it, as though he could not make it out; for Mr. Foracre had no daughter, and no son, and no other pulled-out ministers of storm and wind to produce unpleasantness. As I grew older he became a rustic divinity who dispensed syllabus in an orchard. (I have never tested it since, nor even thought of it since the paper in which the other day the paper of the Sylabus, which I do not believe to be half so nice.) And when I got to be a man, and lost my illusions, this good farmer still remained to me as one of the noblest works of Providence within my limited horizon.

From what I have said as to his unruffled temper and sanguine views it will be gathered that Mr. Robert Foracre was a bachelor. He had come as a stranger into our district when he was a young fellow of four-and-twenty, and had remained in it for forty years, in which I may call a state of siege from maidens and widows, but had held out gallantly, and was at length pronounced impregnable. He was rallied of course, about this and that rustic beauty, but he only replied with a good-humored laugh, or the modest confession that "that he was not good enough for her." I used to think this answer of the honest farmer worthy of Macchiavelli, of whom in all probability he had never so much as heard. The objection in question has, of course, been made before, but always with the intention of winning the lady to use it as a means of escape was a stroke of genius, and I am not sure but that it would stand a man in good stead even in a case of breach of promise marriage.

Her, my lord judge, Heaven knows, but I felt I was not worthy of her. There is a serious obligation about it, reminding one of the Decalogue, and also a pathetic touch suggesting an inscription on a tombstone. There were features about the man that called to me the characteristics of Tennyson's "Millionaire" he had a "wise smile," which would doubtless have been "dry," had circumstances admitted of it, and which seemed "half within and half without, and full of dealings with the world." For with all his quiet geniality, Mr. Foracre knew how to take care of himself. In Wilshire we are not fond of strangers; we are a simple race—some people even call us "moon"—and apt to imagine that outsiders wish to take advantage of us; and in the first instance the honest young farmer was by no means received with open arms. His modest ambition was to take a small farm in the district, the whole of which belongs to

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**THE CO-PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS**  
I, which existed between the Subscriber  
and his late father, THOMAS BAIRD, Esq.,  
is now continued by the Subscriber JOHN  
MILTON BAIRD alone under the old style  
of Firm of

**THOMAS BAIRD & SONS,**  
Pursuant to the provision of his father's  
Will. JOHN MILTON BAIRD.  
Sackville, Oct. 22nd, 1877.

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**HAVING purchased the entire Stock in**  
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Prices twenty per cent. lower than  
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TRURO, N. S.  
ALEX. CARTER, - - - Proprietor.  
Guests treated kindly, and every atten-  
tion paid to comfort.  
July 16

**Salisbury House**  
Opposite Railway Station,  
Salisbury, - - - N. B.  
A. F. McDONALD, PROPRIETOR.  
Permanent and Transient Boarders  
accommodated with first-class fare on rea-  
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**BEFORE buying or renting a**  
Cabinet or Parlor Organ, be  
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alogues and Circulars with new  
Styles and reduced prices. It  
contains much information. Sent  
free. MASON & HAMLIN OR-  
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and Chicago; or, G. C. FAW-  
CETT, Upper Sackville, N. B.,  
sole and exclusive Agent for West-  
morland County.

**D. D. BETTS,**  
HAIR DRESSER,  
AMHERST, N. S.  
DESIRES to thank his old customers  
of Sackville and vicinity, Dorches-  
ter included, for past patronage, and is  
still pleased to wait upon all who favor  
him with a call, at his old stand, opposite  
Baptist Meeting House. With the assist-  
ance of good help, and strict attention to  
business, they will find him well  
Hair Cutting a Specialty.  
Aug 6

**STIMPSON, WALLACE & CO.,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF THE  
**Improved New Dominion**  
**ORGANS.**  
ST. JOHN - - - N. B.  
This is the most popular Organ man-  
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Sales have doubled in six months.  
Manufacture six per week.  
Send for Circular and Price List.

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Clinch and Pressed Nails.  
Office, Warehouse and Manufactory:  
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**DOMINION**  
**CARRIAGE FACTORY**  
DORCHESTER, N. B.  
THE Subscribers have this day entered  
into Co-Partnership in the  
Carriage Building and Blacksmithing  
business, which they will carry on at the  
stand heretofore occupied by Mr. Allan  
McDonald. They respectfully solicit a  
share of public patronage, and guarantee  
that orders left with them will be executed  
in the most workmanlike manner, at rea-  
sonable prices and with dispatch.

Now on hand, for sale cheap,  
**Truck Wagons & Light Carriages.**  
ALLAN McDONALD,  
DOUGLAS BUCHANAN,  
Dorchester, April 8, 1879.

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THE Subscribers have in Stock a large  
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**PIANO-FORTES AND ORGANS.**  
By the best known Manufacturers Also,  
Sheet Music, Instruction Books, Music  
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Pianos and Pipe and Reed Organs  
used by the year. All orders by mail  
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**OSBORNE & MORSE,**  
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Orders for Tuning and Repairing, left  
at Mr. Geo. E. Ford's Store, Sackville,  
will receive prompt attention.

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**SACKVILLE MADE**  
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VERSUS  
**American Importations!**  
MY FACTORY, now in full operation,  
is fitted up with all kinds of  
Machinery calculated to do work in a quick  
and substantial way, thus enabling me to  
manufacture as CHEAP as the CHEAP-  
EST, and for cash to sell 20 per cent.  
LOWER than the same article can be sold  
for when imported.  
I call at my Establishment will prove  
this. I am also fitted up for the man-  
ufacture of  
BLINDS, SASHES, DOORS, SHUT-  
TERS, OUTSIDE WINDOWS, &c.  
Pictures Framed lower than ever.  
Bring along your orders. Satisfaction  
guaranteed.  
Sackville, Nov. 15, 1878.

**J. W. DOULL.**  
**REMOVAL!**  
SINCE the fire, the subscriber has re-  
moved his entire Stock to his Store at  
**CHIGNECTO HALL,**  
where he will continue the  
**Harness Business,**  
Wholesale and Retail.  
as heretofore. Orders solicited, and  
promptly attended to. A large Stock of  
Harness and Harness Goods on hand.  
STEPHEN AYER.  
Sackville, June 4th, 1879.

**Special Notice!**  
In order to meet the demands of our nu-  
merous customers, we beg to announce  
that, we have added to our extensive  
**Slipper and Larrigan Factory**  
the necessary Machinery for the Manufac-  
ture of  
Men's, Women's, Misses' & Children's  
**Boots & Shoes,**