

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

HAVE PATIENCE.

No class of men stand in need of more patience than farmers; and we have often thought that most of their trouble and perplexities resulted from a lack of this scarce, though very useful commodity. The mechanic can in a great measure control his work; if the weather is unfavorable he can wait for better, and then resume his labors; while nothing suffers by the delay, everything remaining just as he left. If he happens to make a mistake he can retrace his steps and correct the error, and generally without much loss or inconvenience. The farmer, however, at all seasons, and in all his operations, is subject to trials which test his patience severely. In the spring time he desires to get in his crops early, but the season is late,—it does seem as if the frost would never get out of the ground,—and when at last the favorable moment arrives and the soil is dry enough for the plow, the heavens become black with clouds, and the rains descend, and for days, and perhaps weeks, he has to wait patiently for an opportunity to commence spring work. When the weather becomes favorable and everything is to be done and done quickly, a son on whom great dependence was placed, has concluded to heed the calls of duty and patriotism, and is off for the war, or a hired man is found to be dissatisfied or worthless, and no other help can be obtained. Happy is he who can command sufficient patience and energy to overcome these and similar evils, and carry out the good plans that he had arranged for his guidance. How many under such difficulties lose all patience—all command even of their own actions—and seem intent only on hurrying along with their work in the most superficial manner, intent only on getting things done in the quickest way, regardless entirely of the manner or the ultimate results!

But this is the beginning of trials only; for very often the season is unfavorable for hoeing as well as planting, yet exceedingly favorable for the production of weeds which over-run the crops and threaten their destruction. When a fine time comes the farmer scarcely knows what to do first; for while he is at work in one field the other is suffering, and while employed in the lot the caterpillars are at work in the orchard. Then in haying and harvesting how much patience is required; for it is seldom we

have just the weather *we think* would best suit our purpose or conduce to our interest.

Experience and observation have taught us that most of the bad farming we observe results not from want of knowledge, or from any determination to do things in a, slovenly manner, but in opposition to good resolutions and plans wisely formed, simply from want of patience to carry them out in practice. Many who talk and write well about good farming and the necessity of order and system in the operations of the farm, are themost untidy and disorderly in their practice; and this is a matter of surprise—a great mystery to many. They know and teach the right, yet practice the wrong. They have not the patience to carry out the plans which they recommend to others, and form for their own guidance; but when work commences get in a hurry, *out* of patience, and do everything in a loose and slovenly manner. Their practice is a constant source of annoyance and vexation to themselves. They stand self-condemned, yet cannot command sufficient patience to do things as they should be done. They have not yet conquered an unfavorable disposition that has proved the bane of their lives.

With some friends, about two years since, we visited a large town in an adjoining State, and as is our custom, visited some of the best farms and most prominent farmers in the neighborhood. Not having time in one day to see all we desired in the suburbs, we sent word, by one of his neighbors, that we would call on a certain gentleman the next day. This individual has almost a national reputation as a writer upon agricultural and horticultural subjects, and is a man of much information and more than ordinary ability. The next morning we took an early start for his place, and did not find him at home, but did find the grounds. We cannot say we were disappointed at their appearance, having learned a little of the philosophy of the old lady, who said, "blessed are they who don't expect nothing," cause they ain't agoin' to be disappointed." We did, however, see sad evidence of want of care, and that system and order which it requires a good deal of patience to carry out. On our return to town we found the gentleman in question had also started early to find us, called at several places where he thought we would be