

A Few Thoughts.

CLUSTER No. 8.—MATRIMONY.

A great deal has been said and written on the subject of matrimony. Taking this fact into consideration, apart from all others, would perhaps make it appear superfluous for me (having had no experience in the matter) to attempt to add anything to what has already been said or written. But there are other facts which, according to my opinion, are quite sufficient to justify me in offering a few remarks on this important subject. I will mention two of them. In the first place, although much has been written, still there is considerable which remains to be said. And, in the second place, it is more than probable that the greater part of what has been written has escaped the notice of a majority of the readers of the Farmer's Advocate. And although, as I just stated, I cannot speak from experience on this subject, still I suppose I may be allowed to suggest a "few thoughts," since, like many others, I have often thought about it.

I have intimated above that this is an important subject; and although this is a fact which must be patent to all thinking men, it is nevertheless a subject which is frequently treated in a manner so light and trifling, as in no way to correspond with the candid thought and serious reflection which its almost unequalled importance demands. I say almost unequalled, because there is only one other subject of equal importance that can possibly engage the attention of mankind. You will of course understand me to refer to the preparation for the world to come. But speaking with reference to this life, what else so much affects the life of every man and woman. And allow me just here to remark that the subject of matrimony is closely connected with that of religion. The latter is very materially affected by the former. How foolish then to treat it with frivolity or indifference. Many young people seem to regard it as something very funny, and so, whenever it happens to be alluded to in conversation, they must of course say funny things and laugh; or, if the minister chooses to mention the subject in his sermon, you will notice all the bashful (!) young men and modest (!) young women exchanging glances, simpering, making use of pocket handkerchiefs, shifting on their seats, hem-ing, blushing, looking ashamed, and trying (!) all the time to look quite sober and composed! What foolishness it is! But who has not seen it?

And this is one great reason why there are so many unhappy marriages. I mean unhappy lives succeeding marriages. Very often those married people who live unhappily together, are those who get married without properly considering what they were about. Some people actually seem to get married just for fun; in such cases, however, the "fun" is generally of very short duration, and married life soon becomes a "stern reality."

Others again get married while under the influence of a short fit of "love." They get a notion into their heads that they must get married, and without questioning the propriety of the act, they get married. Before long, however, like the Prodigal Son, they "come to themselves." They have got over their love fit, and the remainder of their married life is one long lament over the rash act which first began it.

Again,—many fail to enjoy married life from the fact that they have never loved one another. Nothing could be more unreasonable than for such people to expect to live happily together. There can be no happiness where there is no love. And for people to be so far influenced by circumstances, or anything else, as to marry those they do not love, is an act as foolish as it is wicked; and seldom, if ever, does it escape the punishment it so richly deserves.

In conclusion I will add that, with a few exceptions, every body ought to get married,—sometime,—to somebody. No one should ever do so without first making it a matter of careful and prayerful study. No man and woman should ever marry together unless their affec-

tions are entirely placed on each other, and on no one else.

I would like to say more, but must restrict myself to a "few thoughts," in order that the article may correspond with the heading.

JAMES LAWSON.

Spaffordton, Dec., 1870.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Ticks on Sheep.

I feel as though I ought to do something towards assisting you in your endeavors to make the Farmer's Advocate valuable as well as interesting to the subscribers; although I should fail in the attempt, it is only what we are accustomed to in some crop or experiment that did not answer at the time, yet I feel there is a right way and a wrong to everything, and that we are more inclined to go the wrong way, which is the cause of so many failures in attempting to solve a problem when we have no guide, and as the Farmer's Advocate is the medium by which one farmer can communicate with another about their daily occupation. If they wish to know something regarding the management of stock they will get the experience of one or more that have tried it. If in cereals, the emporium is a good institution for giving their experience in testing the quality of grain, and should be sustained in the endeavors that are being made to test the qualities of seeds or roots before they are recommended to the farmer; and for the benefit of your readers I will give you my experience for the last ten years with sheep, in this Province. Ten years ago my sheep, like my neighbor's, were very much annoyed with ticks, and their feed did not do them the good it would have done, on that account; they lost wool by rubbing, and looked as though dozens of pinchers had been liberally applied, and at shearing time they did not average more than between three and four pounds of wool. I tried snuff, but it did not answer to my satisfaction; neither did tobacco water. I then mixed sulphur in their salt for several times; it done good, but I was afraid to give much, not knowing what effect it might have on the sheep, but used it occasionally for six or seven years with good success; my sheep gained in every respect. For one year I neglected them, and, in the spring I tried Miller's Tick Destroyer, but, sir, the sulphur is before any other tick destroyer I ever found. My sheep are free from ticks, and for the last two or three years have averaged six pounds of wool each at shearing time. I have tried to improve the breed, but have no thorough-bred ones, nor any over five years old, this spring.

If you think proper to make use of this, or any part of it, do so. I have no desire to see my name in print, yet you can use it, or a fictitious one. The difficulty with us farmers, or a majority of us, we know our inability to prepare anything for the press, and so do nothing, although we might do a little good in giving texts, as I may, at some time, inform you that out of an average flock of sheep of eighteen lambing ewes, for the last four years, I have lost no lamb except the first one dropped each season.

J. D. TAYLOR.

Fenton Falls, Dec., 1870.

From the Carolina Farmer.

Agriculture as a Manufacture.

If there were but one man upon the earth, he would be obliged to prepare a hut for his habitation, to dig roots for his sustenance, to provide skins or fig leaves for his covering, &c., in short, to do everything for himself. If but one or two more were joined with him, it would soon be found that one of them would be more skilful in one sort of work, and another in a different, so that common interest would direct them, each to apply his industry to what he could do best and quickest; to communicate the surplus of what he needed himself of that kind of work to the others, and receive of their surplus in return. This directly points out to us that a barter of commodities, or the communication of the fruits of industry, is the first principle, or rather, indeed, contributes the essence of commerce and agriculture.

Those farmers that succeed best in the long run, are those who have made a specialty of some particular branch of agriculture in which they are best fitted to excel, and have stuck to it as closely as

possible, making that their main reliance for an income, while other branches are made subordinate to it. Like the student who acquires a superficial knowledge of many branches of science, while he is thoroughly acquainted with none, the farmer who dabbles first in one thing and then in another, as whim or fancy may direct, will find his time filtered away to no account, and his income meanwhile "growing small by degrees and beautifully less."

It has been remarked that nature furnishes us with the rough material for our convenience and happiness, but leaves it to our own industry to work them up for use. If we would have rich crops, we must plow and cultivate the soil. If we would have delicious fruit, the trees that yield it must be raised and pruned with care. The grapes will not spontaneously produce wine—nor the olives, oil; all must be the effect of industry. Nature does nothing in vain, she does nothing cruel; all her ends are wise and good; all her means are proper and conducive to her ends.

The earth in general is a compound of vegetative matter, formed by nature to propagate a variety of plants; and the salts peculiar to each must be extracted from the earth by each particular species of plant; for the land may have strength to bring good different crops one after another, but it seldom abounds with one kind of salt sufficient to produce a good crop of the same grain, often repeated, successfully, unless the land is rich indeed, and the soil and climate well adapted to that kind of grain which is so often repeated. This remark, which will ever be found true, instructively points out the indispensable necessity of varying crops often, if not annually.

From Fort Garry.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

DEAR SIR,—Inclosed I send you a few seeds of wild peas and vetches, which grew on the prairies east of this place. I had some difficulty in getting them, as I was rather late in the season for gathering them off the straw. I think they would do well to sow for green feed, both cattle and horses being very fond of them, and as the seed of them when growing wild is subjected all the winter to the severities of the frost, I have evidence of their hardiness in withstanding it. Knowing that you take a lively interest in this section of the country, as well as other sections, I would be glad to answer any inquiries you, or any of your readers may think fit to make through the Farmer's Advocate relative to the capabilities or requirements of it. I think I am in a position to give reliable and satisfactory information, and should I succeed in causing any of our farmers or young men to come here instead of going to the States, by settling matters in their true light, I shall feel amply rewarded. I send this communication to you being of opinion that your paper is the best medium for it, and that you have the best interests of the Dominion really at heart, and also believe that your labors in that direction are productive of much good. Please send me your paper, addressed to Fort Garry, Lake of the Woods Road. I hope to be able to send you something interesting to your numerous readers during the course of the ensuing year, independent of parties. Please send me a list of your seed grains as soon as possible that I may get some from you.

With every kind wish for your success, I remain, yours respectfully,

Fort Garry, Nov. 20, 1870.

Our correspondent (C.) has our best thanks for his communication and kind offer, and hope that many of our subscribers will take advantage of it by enquiring through this paper what may be very useful for them to know about the country and its prospects in his section of it.

We placed those seeds in the hands of Mr. Irvin, of Dorchester, to test, report, and raise seed for us to supply our patrons

with, if they are found to be of advantage, as we believe they will. They having the power of resisting the severity of the winter may make them very valuable as an early soiling crop.

Please send us full particulars, in regard to building, fuel, cattle, sheep, grasshoppers, and fencing material. Give both sides of the question, for we all want information about your country, as the demand of farmers here is—more land.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

"Persevere and Succeed."

Whatever you undertake to do,
Be sure to persevere;
For if this rule you keep in view,
You'll have no cause to fear.
Though long and rough the way appear,
Which you are called to tread,
If you will only persevere,
You surely will succeed.

Don't be discouraged if you should
Often meet with sore vexations,—
There's nothing done that's great or good,
Without some provocation.
Mean, jealous men will always sneer
At every noble deed;
But what of that? just persevere,
Determined to succeed.

Toil on with mind and might, until
(As doth the proverb say.)
You show that "where there is a will,
There always is a way."
Keep mind and conscience always clear,
(This you will always need.)
Be sure you're right—then persevere,
And you will then succeed.

JAS. LAWSON.

Spaffordton, Dec. 13th, 1870.

Seed Report.

SIR,—The crops have been generally inferior here this year. Wheat and peas not near half a crop. Barley had in color. Oats inferior in quality. Turnips a partial crop. The Chevalier Barley I got from you rusted badly, and is a total failure. The Harrison potatoes have done well with me; they are a large crop, and do not rot, as the other varieties here have done. From the eight ounces of Breese's Prolific I had the astonishing crop of nearly one bushel. From one peck of Norway Oats sown on the third of an acre, I threshed thirty-five bushels. They are the most productive oat I have ever seen.

Enclosed find my dollar for your paper, which every farmer ought to have. I shall try and get up a good club for it before New Year's. Yours respectfully,

E. TURNER.

Tuckersmith, Dec. 16.

Ashes as a Cattle Feed.

The Maine Farmer says:—One of our substantial subscribers—in a recent conversation—gave his experience in training stock affected with a habit of eating wood, chewing bones, &c. His cattle were one spring affected in this way, they became thin in flesh, refusing to eat hay, and presenting a sickly appearance. He had an impression that their food lacked the constituents for making bone; but his neighbors used bone meal, without noticing good results whatever. Last spring he put about four bushels of leached ashes in his barnyard, and threw out to them a shovelful each day. They all eat as if with evident relish. After turning them out to pasture, he put one peck of dry ashes per week on the ground in the pasture. They ate it all up, and gnawed off the grass where it had been lying. The cattle began to improve, gaining flesh, and looking better than they had for several years. He says this morbid appetite was unnoticed years ago, from the fact that the land was new and ashy, from the burnings of the woods and land clearings. He has another proof of the value of ashes from this incident. He had a large tub full of leached ashes which remained in it some time. It was afterwards used as a watering tub, and when the cattle drank from it, they would lick and gnaw the sides and bottom of the tub, actually biting out pieces and eating them. Latterly he gives one quart of ashes mixed with the same quantity of salt to twelve head of cattle, about once a week, and finds it to agree with them wonderfully.

Editor F.

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