

Where to Put Our Buildings.

There are few things of more importance to the farmer than the location of his buildings. In many cases the buildings remain in the place where the first clearing was made, entailing many miles of useless travelling and hauling weekly. The *Germantown Telegraph*, than which journal there is no better authority on all matters of farm economy, thinks farmers might be nearer neighbors than they usually are with mutual advantage. Our cotemporary says:—

"In times past he who entered farm life expected to be more or less an isolated being. Society had no charms for him. He was in most respects a world unto himself. How to make the most money out of his land was the beginning and the ending of all his hopes, and to this object all his arrangements turned. In selecting a site for his dwelling-house and farm buildings it was therefore a point to get as near the centre of his plot of ground as possible. Of course the contour of the surface, contiguity to water and other conveniences, had to have a voice in the decision, but if these voted for the middle of the tract, it was all the more comforting. Every field required attention, and the centre of the whole economized time and space in getting from part to part of the whole concern.

"But times have changed. Agricultural intelligence has advanced more than would have been dreamed of a generation ago. The newspaper is now as much a part of farm life as it is of city life, and we live as much for mental pleasure as for the hogs and cattle and potatoes and corn which our broad acres yield. Social life as well as material wealth is an agricultural want, and must be kept in view in locating buildings as much so as any of the mere conveniences before named.

"Another point is that there is not now the same necessity for as much manual labor on the farm as formerly. Machinery now does most of the hard labor, and the mere saving of manual labor has already been in a measure accomplished. Altogether it is not a matter of serious consequence on what part of the ground the buildings are located.

"This gives us much more chance to entertain the social element in farm life, and there is no reason why in locating buildings the spot chosen might not be especially in view to its contiguity to a neighborhood as not. A dozen farms of a hundred acres or more each could be so arranged that the dwellings might all be within gunshot of one another.

"Even though there were some disadvantages from the labor point of view, the nearness to society would generally compensate it. Farmers, as well as other classes, have learned that there are many ways in which they can co-operate to mutual advantage, and this may just as well be borne in mind when arranging the farm buildings as not."

There is a good deal that is attractive in the picture painted by our cotemporary, but there are some radical objections to farmers being near neighbors. To mention two of them:—There would be difficulty in isolating the stock of one farmer on whose premises some fatal disease had broken out—and, in these days, isolation and prompt stamping out are the recognized modes of treating such things. Another weighty objection is, that the danger from fire would be increased. If farm-yards were but a few rods from each other, sparks could be carried from one man's premises to another—and then, among other advantages of being neighborlike, farmers would have to pay a much higher insurance rate than the companies are satisfied with now.

Self-Education after Working-Hours.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—You will, I hope, be able to afford me a little space to make a few remarks in reply to my young Missourian friend. As you have already pointed out the manner in which he has mistaken my meaning, I need only answer a part of this communication. He observes, "Where is the boy of ten or twelve who, after working hard all day in the cold rain, wind, or snow, will take that interest in his studies which is calculated to develop him into a rare specimen of noble manhood?" To this I reply, any boy of ten or twelve who possesses within himself the germs of a noble manhood, will take that interest in his studies which is necessary for the development of those germs into a full maturity—that clothes can soon be changed, a good supper dispatched, and seated within the cheering influence of a blazing fire

of hickory logs—which so far as comfort is concerned, is worth all the stoves in Canada—he will find the change from physical to mental labor will give him all the rest he needs.

Education, even of the best kind, cannot create ability. The most it can do is to develop, either for good or evil, those natural talents, with which every one, male or female, is born into the world, and where great ability naturally exists, it will sooner or later become conspicuous—education or no education.

Can a more striking example of this be adduced than the late ex-President Johnston? For an English example of what natural ability can accomplish I may mention one who became one of the radical leaders of his day—the late William Cobbett. He had but a very limited education in his youth, yet he taught himself English grammar when serving as a private soldier at Halifax, on the pay of sixpence a day. His table for writing on was a board held on his knees, his light the guard-room fire, and only his share even of that. Still he persevered, and to such good purpose that after he had obtained his discharge and returned to England, he published an English Grammar, with which I had an opportunity, about forty-five years ago, of becoming acquainted, and I can conscientiously recommend it as the very best English Grammar extant for any one who wishes to be his own teacher. His radical opinions may account for his selecting a King's speech to exemplify his rules of English composition. In this purpose he selected the shortest King's speech he could find, but short as it was, he pointed out several grammatical errors. Considering that a King's speech after being drafted, is submitted to the Privy Council, and further considering that the Privy Councillors were men of rank and wealth who had enjoyed the best facilities for education that the public Seminaries of England could provide, it does seem strange that these grammatical errors should have been exposed by a self-taught private soldier, and this too, in a document, every expression in which, one would think, would have been carefully scrutinized before it was placed in the King's hand to be delivered on such an occasion as the opening or closing of the Imperial Parliament.

CHARLES JULYAN.

FARMERS WILL NOT HAVE a great deal of work to do this fall in one direction at least—and that is in gathering apples; and it will not be of much use recommending the systematic feeding of apples to stock when the crop is not a great one. The value of apples to cows is great, not for their nutritive qualities, but from the change that they give to the work of the digestive organs. Cut or crushed before being fed, there is no danger of apples choking cattle. By feeding out windfalls, a host of insects will be destroyed and fewer enemies left to prey upon the crops next year.

IT IS PRETTY WELL SETTLED NOW, that, if no artificial restrictions be imposed upon the import of live stock into England, cattle from Western Ontario can be sent to Liverpool at a profit large enough to compensate for all risk of loss by shipwreck, or casualties on the passage. An English paper thus notes the arrival of American Cattle:—Thirty-seven cattle, imported from America, were recently exhibited for sale at the Islington market, and in the Metropolitan Live Cattle Market on Monday, several fat beasts from New York were offered. Taking into account that they had undergone the wear and tear of a long sea-voyage of 3,000 miles, and had met with some rough usage when brought ashore at the port of London, it was remarked that they were in surprisingly good condition. They arrived in the docks all sound, with the exception of one which had suffered severe butting and bruising, and which the inspector detained along with the others until Wednesday, and carefully examined before passing, declaring it, however, to be free from chronic disease. It was sent to the shambles; but the remainder, by reason of having been confined for two days in a very insufficient space, were said to have suffered a depreciation in value of £2 per head. Good prices, nevertheless, were realized, the animals bringing from £28 to £36 each. This experiment proves satisfactorily that animals can be brought long distances by sea, in well-appointed vessels, without being much deteriorated; but the question remains to be considered whether the freightage would not absorb the profit.

IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASANT TASK to record a brotherly action, and when the action recorded is one in which a new organization like the Grange figures so creditably as it does in the instance we are about to mention, the pleasure is doubled. Recently, Bro. Abraham Whitmore, of Howick township, had his barn destroyed by a storm. His circumstances being such that the loss was a heavy one to him, Mr. Alex. Locking, Master of the Local Grange, sent the particulars of the case to the Secretary of the Dominion Grange. The latter officer acquainted the Sub-Secretaries of the facts of the case, and the result was, in a few days, a subscription of \$71.12; and at the date of our receiving information, letters were coming in five a day.

LAST YEAR, ENGLISH JOURNALS sneered extensively at the reported yield of potatoes grown from a single pound of seed for the prizes offered by one of the seed firms over the line. The highest claimed yield from a single pound was 1,018 pounds, the Brownell's Beauty being the variety. This was classed by our English friends among "Yankee stories." Now, however, we observe that a larger yield has been obtained in England. The *Coventry Standard* states that in the spring of the present year one pound each of Snowflake and Eureka potatoes were planted in the gardens at Capesthorne, the seat of Mr. Bromley Davenport, M.P. On the 13th of August the Snowflake was lifted, when it was found that the one pound had produced the surprising weight of 638 lbs. A week later the Eureka was lifted and it was ascertained that the pound of seed potatoes had produced 1,082½ lbs., the largest yield on record. Three hundred of the tubers weighed 369½ lbs.

VERILY, IN THESE DAYS, people have to get up early in the morning, if they would avoid being victimized. No sooner is one sharp trick exposed than the keen intellects of a host of modern Ishmaels who have nothing to live on but their wits are set to work to concoct other devices for the entrapment of the unwary. One of the latest dodges is for a man, got up to represent a farmer, to possess himself of the advertised description of a stray horse or cow, and then to claim it from the person who has taken it up, giving as evidence of his ownership, a full description of the animal. As he lives a long distance off, he says, he will sell the animal for much less than its value, rather than be bothered with getting it home. Now, notwithstanding that men are always accusing women of being incapable of resisting a bargain, the falling belongs to the sterner as well as to the softer sex. The holder of the estray, unless an uncommonly sharp man, snaps at the bargain, and the swindler goes on his way rejoicing in the consciousness of having done a profitable stroke of business.

THAT A GOOD DEAL of the inferior grades of what is called "butter," in the British markets is a mysterious compound, has long been known. About the only ingredient that is known for certain is hair. Now it appears that ground bones furnish a large part of the fatty matters with which the Englishman coaxes down his matutinal toast. It appears that a certain bone manure manufacturer in the neighbourhood of Southampton was rash enough to engage in a free and communicative conversation with a friend of the analyst of the district. In the innocence of his heart the manufacturer disclosed the fact that of the produce of the coppers in which the bones are boiled down many tons are annually sold to the wholesale butter factors. The friend recounted to the analyst, and the latter has now communicated to the public, the process by which the material obtained from slaughter-houses, knackers' yards, and old bonemen's bags is converted into the elements of butter of the period. In the boiling operation a large quantity of fat rises to the top of the vessels. This is skimmed off and placed into tubs. "When cold, it forms a lark, brown-coloured grease, having a most offensive odour, and a taste—well, nobody has been found with sufficient courage to test its flavour." This is the industrial product for which the wholesale butter factors pay so handsomely; and this is the substance which, after being duly manipulated, enters so largely into the composition of the butter sold by certain wholesale dealers in large towns. At the same time, the compound thus elaborated is one which no chemist can declare to contain matter "deleterious to health,"—and therefore the adulteration is only mildly punishable.