

AGRICULTURAL.

From an American Paper.

A LEAF

FROM THE NOTE BOOK OF A FARMER.

SOME experience, and more observation, has convinced me that one of the most common errors into which farmers fall, is undertaking more work than they can perform; hence I insert the following *Mem.*: Never to lay out more work than I find there is a reasonable probability of my finishing in good time, and in good order. Labor is capital, and time is capital, and a man should know how much of both he can bestow on any given part of his farm, before he undertakes its cultivation. Serious losses result from a neglect of this rule, for there are many farms, and many operations in farming, in which a failure in time or labor is fatal to the hope of profit. There are many farms so situated that the crops will not pay the expense of cultivation, unless manure is used to a considerable extent; now if the farmer plans his business on so extensive a scale that he has no time to collect and apply this essential article, his inferior crops will prove a source of loss instead of gain. If he plants a field of corn or potatoes, but has so much other work to do that he can hoe it but once, and that slightly, when two thorough ones are required, he must not complain if his neighbor who employs a capital of both time and labor on his crop, should gather a harvest far exceeding his own. If he allows his manure to lie in the barn yard through the summer, washing in rains, and wasting in the sun, because he had not time to apply it to his corn or barley grounds in the spring, he may be sure he is not in the way to get the most profit from his farm, or the most benefit from his barn yard. The man who has no time to clean his seed wheat, because he is so driven with work, will most likely find some five or even ten per cent of his crop will be chaff and cockle at harvesting. But there is no end to the inconveniences that result from attempting too much on the farm; from beginning to end it is evil; it makes the whole process of farming up hill work; it allows not a moment for relaxation or improvement of the mind; it places the farmer and his work in wrong positions, the latter always driving the former; and he who does not correct the error in time, will find himself driven out of house and home.

Mem. Never to willingly subject myself to a charge of ignorance on any subject of permanent utility or general knowledge, not of a kind strictly technical or professional. The notion so prevalent, that the farmer, from the very nature of his avocations, must necessarily be ignorant of every thing that does not relate to his employment, should be exploded, and none are more interested in the matter than the farmer himself. It may be asserted that few professional men, who are zealously and successfully engaged in their several pursuits, have more hours to devote to the acquisition of general knowledge of a useful kind, than the farmer. All that is wanting is the taste for knowledge—and this taste is usually an acquired one—and the means of information will follow as a matter of course. Papers, periodicals, books, are all so plentiful and so cheap, and information on most topics has been so condensed, that to plead want of means or want of time, for the acquisition of knowledge, is sealing our condemnation with our hand. True, a farmer must work, and work hard—to labor is his glory, and in it he finds his reward. The free laborer who tills his own farm has a prouder patent of nobility, and can trace a longer pedigree than any monarch-made race of peers on earth; but he must never be ashamed of his calling, or ape the follies or vices of those who ridiculously deem themselves above him.

Mem. Always to perform whatever I undertake. The celebrated John Hunter, towards the close of his life, was asked how he had been able to accomplish so much labor. He replied, by always performing what I undertook. If an object presented itself to me as desirable to be accomplished, I first inquired whether it could be done—if it was necessary it should be done—and these two points once settled, the conclusion was, I could do it as well as any one else, and by perseverance it was done. This is the true course to be pursued by a farmer. Only let them determine what is indispensable, and necessary to success in any farming operation, and he will rarely fail. The object and the means of attaining it should be distinct in the mind, and these should be unhesitatingly pursued. Perseverance has wrought wonders in the farming world, and its efficiency is not by any means lost. The most highly cultivated parts of Europe, were considered as hopelessly barren; and our country exhibits some more honorable examples of what skill and determined industry can accomplish.

Mem. Always to pay particular attention to the garden. Some farmers, by their continued borrowing, seem to believe in the maxim, that "good neighbors are half one's living," but this I would have apply to my garden. If properly selected, well manured, and carefully planted and tended, a garden plot of half an acre will half support a moderate family. The garden forms a place into which a thousand scraps of time can be profitably cast, and health and pleasure be, as they unhappily not often are, combined. Flowers may be called the poetry of the farm, and they are so closely allied, that he who loves not both of them, may be said to have but half a heart, and the woman who neglects them is—is unpardonable.

Mem. Never to suffer the season of gathering and securing seeds to pass, without laying in sufficient quantity for my own use, of the very best of all the necessary kinds than can be procured. It costs but little trouble at the time; it enables you to be certain of the kind and quality; and when the season of planting or sowing arrives, saves you an infinite deal of vexation and trouble in looking them up. The governing maxim of him who would be a thrifty farmer so far as concerns what can profitably be raised on his own farm, must be—always to sell, never to buy.

Mem. Always to pay particular attention to the boundary fences of the farm; certainly to those which serve as division fences between me and my neighbors. It can hardly be questioned that two thirds of the difficulties and hard feelings which exist among neighbors spring from this very source. A law suit and a protracted quarrel has been bequeathed to a third generation in consequence of a single neglected rail. This source of contention may be stopped in the very bud, by a little attention to the fences early in the season, and occasional repairs as they are required. If a man was to judge by the condition of the fences on many farms, by the top rails fallen off and lying rotten in the grass, by the unruly cattle, sheep, and horses, that seem to have taken undisputed possession, he would arrive at the conclusion that the owner thought it beneath him to pick up a rail, replace a post, or pile a few stones, that may have fallen down. Many farmers adopt a course, of all others the best adapted to make their animals unruly and troublesome. If a few rails get down, or a top bar or two falls, instead of making a thorough repair of the damage at once, they go to work by piece-meal, adding a rail or bar at a time, giving their cattle and colts the very practice necessary to enable them to obtain perfection in jumping; a practice which rarely fails of complete success. It may be laid

down as a maxim, that one unruly ox or horse, or even sheep, when not confined, but allowed to run at large or with the stock on the farm will occasion more damage during a season than they are worth; not to speak of the vexation and loss of time they produce. The only safe place for an unruly horse is a stable; the only fit place for a troublesome ox or sheep is the slaughter house.

Mem. "Never to put off till to-morrow what may as well be done to-day." This maxim, if acted up to, would prevent an infinite deal of trouble. Pure laziness, or pure carelessness are continually prompting us to take our ease and let the world slide; and in no sphere of life does the indulgence of this disposition to procrastinate produce more injurious effects than in that of the farmer. I never knew a "time enough yet" man, who was not always behind his work, and in consequence a serious annual loss. There are some crops if not in season, had better not be put in at all, as labor and seed are thus prevented from being thrown away. It is besides always easier to perform work in the proper season than at any other time; for instance, how many cold fingers would be prevented if farmer's corn was gathered and husked in October, instead of remaining on the stalk or in the shock, till November or December; and how certainly would the waste and inconvenience of frost-bitten potatoes be obviated, if they were secured in the cellar on the first of October. All crops should be gathered when they are ripe: exposure after that period must, from the nature of things, be injurious.

Mem. Always keep out of debt. This rule must be inflexible; or if not absolutely so, the only exception must be in the purchase of land. The man who pays down will save twenty dollars in the hundred in his trading. By running in debt a few times, a man acquires the habit of purchasing a thousand things of which he stands in no need; one of the worst habits a farmer can acquire, and which is sure, if persisted in, to reduce to poverty. Never buy an article because it's cheap till you have enquired whether you cannot as well do without it as to have it; and whether the money you must use cannot be more profitably employed. If you need a thing pay for it; and save your 20 per cent. by paying your mechanic, your day laborer, your bookseller, and your Printer, down.

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Carrhene Moss.

JAMES D. B. FRASER.

September 21.

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A FEW pairs very best India Rubber overall Shoes.
This is an indispensable article to those who can
appreciate the comfort of dry feet. [Nov. 8

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The soil is excellent, and nearly all fit for the Plough; there is on the premises a good freestone Quarry; and the water is so deep close to the shore that a Wharf is together unnecessary. For further particulars, apply to

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Nov'r 8, 1836.