From the Farmers' Cabinet.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES OF FARMING.

It is a prevalent opinion amongst young men—those who are engaged in agriculture—as well as many who are connected with commerce, that farming is less advantageous, and subject to greater hardships, than most other professions—but this arises, in a great measure, from partial views of the subject, and from an unacequaintedness, incident to the employments of others: they therefore form opinions merely from external appearances, without investigating the disadvantages attendant upon other occupations—and thus, enterprises are commenced and precipitate resolutions are formed, which lay the foundation of many disasters, which daily take place in families and amongst individuals. But the farmer possesses many advantages which these persons are apt to underrate. And *first*, his moral honesty is not so hardly tried, as it would be in many other kinds of business; and consequently, 'defalcation' is not often charged upon him. Again, he has no knowledge of that competition which exists between those of other trades and professions; so that when he retires from his labour, he is free from those inward ranklings, which often harrow up the minds of persons engaged in trade. Nor is he in that danger of losing his property by casualties—fire, the wind and waves, and the depredation of dishonest men: and as he raises those articles upon his farm that are most necessary for *his comfort, and which have always been* considered cash articles in the market, he is not so liable to be put to his wits' end to procure money to purchase the necessaries of life. It has been objected, that farming is a laborious and dirty employment; but is there not hard and dirty work in the shop of the *blacksmith*? and *do not the* carpenter and mason encounter both, in the repairs of old buildings, &c.? and are the grocer, the ware-houseman, the harness-maker and the shoe-maker exempt? Another objection is, it is a slow way to get money; true, there are shorter ways to make money, but it very often happens that those who accumulate property the quickest, cannot produce such a title to their wealth as will procure satisfaction, and a quiet conscience. Multitudes, deluded by the deceptive allurements of trade, have entered into rumous speculations, to the destruction of their own prospects and the peace and happiness of *their families; stamping lasting blight* upon their characters and future welfare, and all to gratify an insatiable appetite to make money quickly; overlooking the fact, that generally, the fortunes that have been made the most suddenly, are the most suddenly dissipated, and that those who enjoy the privilege of making money *fast*, have often to pay dearly for it, both in their persons and characters, and are made to exclaim "all is not gold that glitters." Few know or consider, the *personal assiduity*, the economy, the self-denial and perseverance which are necessary to insure success in trade: there is no occupation exempt from its peculiar evils and trials—the physician, the lawyer, and the clergyman, have their full share, of which the farmer is little aware; and if he could comprehend all the difficulties and unpleasant occurrences, which even these are continally liable to encounter, he would rejoice at his lot, rather than envy that of others; and bless his "lines that have fallen to him in such pleasant places," and be grateful for his "goodly heritage."

S. Brown.

Wilmington, Mass.

Analysis of Indian Corn.—In our paper of March 22d, we gave an analysis by Professor Dana, of Lowell, Mass., of *Indian Corn*, Ruta Baga, and Potatoes, upon which, among other things we then remarked:

"This analysis presents one other curious fact—it is this—that while the corn gives over 88 per cent of the *fat-forming principles, and the potato only a little over 24 per* cent; that in the *flesh-forming principles*,—the potato greatly exceeds the corn, the former yielding 2.07, whereas the latter only gives 1.26."

This discrepancy between the product of *fat* and *flesh*, in a grain so rich in nutrition as that of corn, appeared to us at the time to be strange, and hence the remarks we then made; we are pleased to find by the following correction, that the result as set down by Dr. Dana, to the flesh-forming principles was erroneous; but while we make this remark we must be permitted to point to another discrepancy which appears between the fat-forming principles as stated in his note of correction, and that given in his communication of Feb. 28th. In that communication they were stated at 88.43, in the present at 77.09, being a difference of 11.34, just the one existing between the present result, as regards the quantum of flesh-forming principles and that formerly ascribed to it. This makes the aggregate result quadrate, but does not account for the error, in the *fat forming principles*, as the Dr. is silent as to how it occurred.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer:

Dear Sir,—I ask leave to correct a material error in the statement of the results of the analysis of Indian corn which I sent you, and which you published in your paper of March 8, 1843.

1.26 should be 126. Deducting this number, the product of multiplying the nitrogen of corn by 6.20, from the water of vegetation and the salts, we have 77.09.

The correction thus made, the results are—

Flesh-forming principles—gluten, albumen, &c	12.60
Fat-forming principles — as gum, sugar, Starch, woody fibre, oil, &c.	77 09
Water, ...	9.
Salts	1 31
	100

With regard, your ob't serv't,

Sam. L. Dana.

Lowell, June 10, 1843.

Soap Making.—As soap making is a matter of no small interest to every house keeper, a few suggestions on the process of manufacturing will be of utility. Soap, as every one knows, is made of alkal. and fat or oil of almost any kind. Although grease and ley are common in every kitchen, yet few can combine them with accuracy; and frequently much more labor is bestowed, than is necessary. The first consideration is the obtaining a sufficient quantity of alkali. This requires good wood, green is best, and if it be cut in the winter or while the sap is down, the ley will be much stronger. Old rotten wood should not be burnt, when the ashes are to be used for ley.

The ashes being ready, put them into a hogshead, barrel or old fashioned hopper, and put on water until the strength is exhausted Next commence boiling to evaporate the water, and concentrate the potash. To be assured there is enough potash, make a trial with an egg. If an egg is supported, all is right, but if it sinks to the bottom, the boiling must be continued.

But often it occurs that the ley is sufficiently strong and yet soap cannot be made. This is generally owing to the fact, that the potash of the ley is not sufficiently caustic, or capable of corroding the skin. This lack of causticity is owing to the existence of too much *carbonic acid*, in combination with the potash. To prevent this, use the ashes fresh, or before the acid is absorbed. The cure for the evil is quick. It has a greater affinity for carbonic acid than potash, and if a half bushel unslacked lime be placed at the bottom of the hogshead of ashes, the ley will be free from the acid.—The proper causticity will be shown by dipping a feather into the ley while boiling. If the more delicate parts are consumed, the ley is ready for the oil. The fat should be as clean as possible. The proportion should be about three pounds to one gallon of the alkali. The fat of course to be put in while boiling and the whole should be constantly stirred, till the soap is finished.

Hard Soap is made by adding salt to soft soap while boiling. Tallow soap is perhaps the best but too expensive for common use. The Windsor soap is made of tallow and potash, scented with caraway seed. Butter, lard and the finer oils are used for making the fancy toilet soaps.—*Tennessee Agriculturist.*

Sick Headache.—An article in the Southwestern Farmer,—though not credited, and it does not appear to be original—says that two tea spoonsful of finely pulverized charcoal, drunk in a half tumbler of water, will in less than fifteen minutes, give *relief to the sick headache, when caused, as* in most cases it is, by superabundance of acid on the stomach. It is always on hand and easily tried, at all events.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A glass of new milk, taken two or three times a day, is said to be a remedy for the *headache*, when occasioned by a disorderly state of the stomach. The headache may generally be relieved by rubbing fine salt on the head. The hair of the patient should be opened, a little fine salt laid on the head, then it should be rubbed hard and quick with the palm of the hand, until the friction produces considerable irritation which will cause a tendency of the blood outward, and relieve the brain.

This operation should be performed on five or six places on the head. We have tried this and it is the only remedy we use; and we have known it tried in many cases and it seldom fails of making an immediate cure, or mitigating the pain. *It is simple* and convenient. Salt is said to be good to promote the growth of the hair.—*Boston Cultivator.*

The Sun Flower.—The propagation of the sun-flower is a branch of domestic industry *which has never yet, we think*, received the attention which it deserves.—There are but few vegetables that will more liberally repay the cost of cultivation, or that can be used in a greater variety of ways. The soil best adapted to their cultivation, is a light, rich, permeable soil of *light and porous* sand. It is credibly asserted that in many parts of New England from fifty to sixty bushels of sunflower seed are often harvested from a single acre, and that has been ascertained by actual and critical experiments, to be equally valuable for fattening hogs, fowls, &c. as the best description of corn. As to its value as a food for the latter, we can speak from actual experience, having for several years made use of it for that purpose to all other grains. As a feed for milch cows it is invaluable, giving a peculiar