

All can, by God's assistance, the drunkard's cup neglect,
Keep at a proper distance, the whirlpool and the wreck,
Where many still do perish, and millions have been lost,
The Temperance cause oh cherish, as life's rough sea you cross.

There's whiskey, wine, and beer, and brandy, rum and gin,
Which afford no solid cheer, but lead mankind to sin;
They raise us to oppress us—they lift us up to fall,
And while they thus distress us, we will renounce them all.

We all rejoice together, with warm hearts and cool heads,
And sad and melancholy weather, while drunkards are in beds.
Hard cider we abandon, with Peppermint and shrub,
A solid rock we stand on—no Bacchanalian club!

The Temperance cause shall flourish, while sun and moon endure,
Let old and young it nourish, success will then be sure,
Show "Alcohol" no favour, oh snatch men from the grave,
And Pray that Christ the Saviour, each fallen soul may save.

Palermo, Nov. 10, 1842.

S. STEWART,

AGRICULTURE.

ACID IN WOOD—ITS EFFECT ON SALT AND BUTTER.

It has been frequently remarked by those who are in the habit of packing butter, that that kept best put down in stone, the next best in oak or white ash firkins, the wood of which had been boiled for several hours previous to working, and that butter packed in firkins of unprepared wood frequently acquired a strong and disagreeable flavor, which seriously injured its quality. The reason of this has not been generally understood. Mr. Moir, of Scotland, has been instituting a series of experiments on the subject, which appears to have thrown some light on the matter.—He found that most kinds of wood contained considerable quantities of *pyrolignic acid*, which decomposes the salt with which it comes in contact. The *linden*, or basswood, was the only wood he found entirely free, but the other kinds he experimented upon were easily freed from the acid by boiling three or four hours, well pressed under water. It is evident that firkins made of staves prepared in this way would be decidedly improved, and as the preservation of butter in a sweet and pure state is an important matter to the dairyman, we think much would be gained by a proper attention to the vessels in which it is packed.

FARM HOUSES.

We think there are few points of husbandry in which the effect of bad management and want of calculation, is so generally apparent among farmers, as in the position, arrangement, and construction of their dwelling houses. Comfort and utility is too often sacrificed to show, and beauty of design and neatness of execution overlooked, where they ought to be most apparent. There can be as much good taste shown in the selection of a position, and in the construction of a farm house, as in that of a palace, and there can be no good reason why it should not here be exercised.

The position of a farm house is of great consequence, and should be determined with particular reference to conveniences, salubrity, and appearance. The whole ground should be examined before the choice is made. The facilities of procuring fuel; of securing a plentiful supply of good water; of having an easily accessible means of ingress and egress to and from the premises; of the manner in which the productions of the farm must be moved, such as hay and grain, and the manure returned to the fields; all these things must be well-looked at before the place for the farm building is fixed upon. It would be obviously improper to build on the highest part of the farm, or on some distant corner, because such spot was on the most public road, since a farmer's travel is mostly on his farm, and a judicious selection of a site for his buildings, may, in a few years, save him hundreds, if not thousands, of miles of travel. If he has occasion to leave his farm twice or three times a week, he had much better travel over the distance of half or three-fourths of a mile than number of times to the main thoroughfare, than by building on one side or corner of his farm, be compelled to do it many times daily. But some will say, if we do not build on the road, how will our friends find us? Let no one give himself uneasiness on this point. The man who has friends will be found by them; and sometimes by

being a little out of the way, he will be saved the interruptions caused by what the idle, and those who are obliged to devise some methods of killing time, denominated calls of friendship.

Salubrity is a point not to be overlooked or hazarded in the choice of a place for the farm buildings. Never allow any consideration to draw you into a swamp or the vicinity of one, where the sun of an American summer is sure to engender in some form the seeds of disease, if not of death. A dry soil, free ventilation, and the absence of all sources of malaria, are indispensable conditions to the robust health the farmer requires. We know of some who have voluntarily subjected themselves to dangers of this kind, under the idea that diseases of this class will wear themselves out. To such we recommend the case of a middle aged woman, found by a young friend of ours in a log-cabin on the banks of the Des Plaines, in Illinois. She was suffering under a fit of the ague, and when told to be of good courage, as the fever and the ague was a disease that would wear out, she replied, "She believed it, as that was the fourteenth summer she had had it regularly, and she thought it was not quite as severe as at first."

Those, then, who have yet to erect their farm buildings will, in selecting the position, do well to consider their course of cultivation, the crops they will be most likely to grow, their comparative bulk and ease of removal, the distribution of their manures, the requisites of convenient location and health, and the capabilities of the place for the display of correct taste, before the die is cast, since so much of the value of a farm and the pleasure and profit of cultivation is depending on these things.

Another point of very great importance is the plan of the buildings, and the materials of which they are to be constructed. In a house that is well arranged, where the apartments bear a proper proportion and position to each other, where the whole is skillfully constructed with reference to comfort and ease of labour every housewife knows the advantages that are gained in the saving of work, and in the economy of time. The houses of our farmers are like their farms, usually very much too large. Where a house is so constructed that no room is wasted, a building of very moderate dimensions will furnish ample accommodations for a respectable family; much better, indeed, than half our ill-arranged, half-finished huge "shingle-palaces," as our English friends term our dwellings, can offer. In building a house, comfort in the resident, and ease to the laborer, male or female, is too much disregarded. Great houses, large and high rooms, vast fire places, and abundance of light, seem to be the great requisites. When the cost of rendering a large and long room comfortable; of furnishing or finishing them so as to cause the execution to correspond with the design; and the little possible use the farmer's family can have for so much room in a dwelling, is considered, we think a more rational style of building should be adopted. But whatever may be the size of the farm house determined upon, the materials used and the execution should be such as to ensure permanence and durability. It may and will cost more in the first place to build well than ill; to use first materials rather than defective or worthless ones; to have the work done in the best manner, rather than half done; but the costly building will be the cheapest in the end. When finished, it is finished for a life, or perhaps half a dozen, and its repairs will cost but a mere trifle, while the cheap house will absorb from five to ten per cent of its first cost annually in repairs, and finally require rebuilding, while the other is only in its prime.

Stone or brick is the best material for building in this country; as in such houses the great conditions of durability, and an equality of temperature, are best attained. Brick or stone houses, however, require dry and well ventilated cellars, and the plastering of the rooms should not be laid immediately on the walls, otherwise they are apt to acquire humidity, and operate unfavourably on health. When proper precautions in these respects are taken, such dwellings are unobjectionable, and their durability, the ease with which they can be kept at a proper temperature for comfort and health, by heat in the winter and the circulation of air in the summer, render them preferable to others. The additional fuel required in the common wood farm house, over that necessary in one of stone or brick wall, in a few years, balance the difference in the expense of materials, independent of the pleasure and comfort derived from the avoidance,