

### Wastes on the Farm.

The greatest of wastes on the farm is in the not using of our brains; the greatest, because at the bottom of all the other wastes. A little thinking often saves much labor. After accomplishing almost any piece of work, the most of us can look back, and see how we could have improved on it, if we had only thought. As we review our crops of this year, we see how they could have been easily increased, had we only thought. The ditch we dug through our meadow, was not done in the most economical way. We dug too deeply at first, and did not allow for the settling of the land. Hence a waste of labor. We omitted buying an implement that would have saved nearly its cost in this year's use, until we had spent much in trying to accomplish our work without it. Here was another waste. We carry a water pipe too near the surface, to save the expense of digging a trench of a safe depth, and the winter's frost necessitates a replacement of the pipe, and an additional digging. Certainly, a waste here. We allowed the weeds to grow on one piece of land, not thinking to what proportions they would grow by the time the crops were too far advanced to admit the hoe. A waste here, which might have been obviated. And so on, wastes, little and big everywhere, all arising from not thinking sufficiently—waste, because not necessary and easily obviated. We omit the ordinary wastes from neglect, from laziness, from want of appreciation of cleanliness and thoroughness—the wastes from our stock, from our manure heap, from our household. Verily a little thought will save the farmer much, and the saving, through this means, even on a small farm, will represent the interest on a considerable capital. The wastes arising from ignorance can very readily be diminished, and are in large part inexcusable; those arising from carelessness are not deserving of sympathy. The farmer, as well as the business man, must use business principles to secure the largest success, and the one should be as careful of the outgoes as the other.

### Protect the Birds.

The swallow, swift and nighthawk are the guardians of the atmosphere. They check the increase of insects that otherwise would overload it. Woodpeckers, creepers and chickadees are guardians of the trunks of trees. Warblers and fly-catchers protect the foliage. Black-birds, thrushes, crows and larks protect the surface of the soil, snipe and woodcock the soil under the surface. Each tribe has its respective duties to perform in the economy of nature; and it is an undoubted fact that if the birds were all swept away from the face of the earth, man could not live upon it, vegetation would wither and die; insects would become so numerous that no living thing could withstand their attacks. The wholesale destruction occasioned by the grasshoppers, which have lately devastated the West, is undoubtedly caused by the thinning out of the birds, such as grouse, prairie hens, etc., which feed upon them. The great and inestimable service done to the farmer, gardener and florist is only becoming known by sad experience. Spare the birds, and save your fruit; the little corn and fruit taken by them is more than compensated by the vast quantities of noxious insects destroyed. The long-persecuted crow has been found by actual experiment to do more good by the vast amount of grubs and insects he devours, than the little harm he does in the few grains of corn he pulls up. He is one of the farmer's best friends.

### Lice on Colts.

Lice may accumulate in great numbers before they are discovered. Sometimes they are diffused all over the skin; at other times they are confined to the mane, the tail and parts adjacent. The horse is frequently rubbing himself, and often the hair falls out in large patches. There are many lotions, powders and ointments for destroying lice. Mercurial ointments, lotions of corrosive sublimate, and decoctions of tobacco, are so dangerous that they never should be used. Refuse oil or lard, rubbed on a lousy beast of any kind, immediately destroys the vermin, and there is no danger to be apprehended from this application. It merely occasions the hair being shed earlier in the spring, and requires a little extra attention in housing such animals as have been affected. Vinegar mixed with three times its bulk of water, is also a good application, and not dangerous. It is most irritating, but the irritation soon subsides, and does not sicken the horse; tobacco often will. Next day the skin should be examined, and wherever there is any sign of living vermin, another application should be made. Two days afterwards the horse should be washed with soapy water, warm, and applied with a brush that will reach the skin without irritating it.—Golden Rule.

### How to Keep Apples.

Mr. Ratliff, an old fruit-grower of Wayne county, gives us his method for keeping winter apples as follows:—At the proper season, before they are fully ripe, in the fall, he picks them carefully from the tree and buries them in shallow pits in the ground, covering them over with three or four inches of earth over that. He assures us that he takes them out the next spring, as late as May, perfectly sound, nice and plump. He is particularly successful in this method with the Russet. The freezing in the winter seems to be a benefit instead of an injury to them. When good apples will bring from one to two dollars per bushel in May, it pays well to take this trouble in preserving them. It certainly is a less expensive plan for keeping a few hundred bushels than building a fruit house, and according to our friend's experience, it is quite as safe and successful.

It is well enough to say, "take things as they come," but suppose they don't come.

### Beef and Pork.

To condense the weight of our exports, selling less in the bushel, and more on hoof and in fleece is one of the articles of our declaration of principles. Now, a few sows will soon stock a farm with hogs enough to consume all the surplus corn, and if they are good grade stock, thorough-breds crossed with the common hogs, the corn so fed will yield the farmer nearly double the price he gets for it when sold to the grain buyers. Such a plain and easy way of nearly doubling the value of corn should certainly command the attention of all. The reason it is not done is simply neglect. That is the whole story. When they see that this can be done, it is just at the time they haven't the hogs to do it with, and so year after year some neglect their opportunities, never providing themselves with stock to consume their surplus corn. This is all plain enough to them, but they venture on experiments, continue to fritter away their opportunities, and are forced to sell their surplus grain at starvation prices. Resolve to breed some good grade stock, feed the surplus and you will never regret it.

The same is true of beef cattle. We refer to hogs specially because farmers with small means can soonest stock their farms with them, and do it with less money. Besides, there are some who have not farms suited to cattle growing. The fact should be kept in mind as one well settled, that the money in grain is made in converting it into beef and pork. All know how well the prices of hogs have been sustained in the past fifteen years, notwithstanding the increase.

### Supply of Hogs for 1876.

A correspondent of the Cincinnati Price Current, writing from Wapello county, Iowa, says that all the shippers and feeders in that State, with whom he has conversed, unite in the opinion that there will be a less number of hogs than for the last four years. They base their opinion on the fact that the high prices of the last month or six weeks, together with the fear of disease, have induced growers and feeders to sell their brood sows and all pigs that would weigh 180 pounds gross and upward. In this and adjoining counties I know many farmers who usually have ten to fifteen brood pigs, that tell me they have not a hog or a pig of any kind; have lost part by disease and sold the balance, and don't intend to stock up again until they feel sure that their lots and pens are cleared of all taint from disease. Others who have a fair stock on hand say they intend to let them run at large and not attempt to fatten before fall, as they find they are much more likely to die when confined in pens or small lots of ground. \* \* Having watched the hog crop and its movements pretty closely for a number of years, and being personally acquainted with many of the hog raisers and nearly all the large feeders and shippers, and having seen and conversed with them frequently of late, I am firmly convinced that the supply of hogs in Chicago, for 1876, will be small, as compared with that of the last three years.

### Waste of Land.

If a farm of 160 acres is divided by fences into fields of ten acres each, there are five miles of fences. If each fence, now, is one rod wide, no less than 10 acres of land are occupied by them. This is equal to 6 1/4 per cent. of the farm, and the loss of the land is exactly equal to a charge of 6 1/4 per cent. on the whole value of the farm. But nearly every fence-row in the country is made a nursery for weeds, which stock the whole farm, and make an immense amount of labor necessary to keep them from smothering the crops. Much damage always results to the crop from these weeds, and if these expenses are added to the first one, the whole will easily sum up to 20 per cent., or a tax of one-fifth of the value of the farm. To remedy this, we would have fewer fences, or we would clean and sow down the fence-rows to grass or clover, and mow them twice a year. Ten acres of clover or timothy would at least supply a farm with seed and a few tons of hay every year. We would, in short, consider the fence-rows as a valuable part of the farm, and use them as such.—American Agriculturist.

The glory of the farmer is that, in the division of labors, it is his part to create. All trade rests at last on his primitive activity. He stands close to nature; he obtains from the earth the bread and the meat. The food which was not, he causes to be. The first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of land. Men do not like hard work, but every man has an exceptional respect for tillage, and a feeling that this is the original calling of his race; that he himself is only excused from it by some circumstance which made him delegate it for a time to other hands.

### How to Put an Egg in a Small Bottle.

To accomplish this seemingly impossible act, requires the following preparation: You must take an egg and soak it in vinegar, and in process of time its shell will become quite soft, so that it may be extended lengthwise without breaking. Then insert it into the neck of a small bottle, and by pouring cold water upon it, it will resume its former figure and hardness. This is really a complete curiosity, and baffles those who are not in the secret to find out how it is accomplished. If the vinegar used is not sufficiently strong to produce the required softness of the shell, add one tablespoonful of strong acetic acid to every two tablespoonfuls of vinegar. This will render the egg perfectly flexible, and easy of insertion into the bottle, which must then be filled with cold water.

A good wife is a good thing, but a bad husband beats her.

### The Grange.

#### Let Every Member Work.

The Grange Bulletin says:—Most of the troubles and hinderances with which subordinate Granges have to contend, arise from the failure of members to co-operate in small matters. We hear the complaint from subordinate Granges almost daily, that a few members, two or three, have to take the lead in almost everything; and we may add that we occasionally receive complaints from those who take the lead in nothing that they who take it in everything "are running things to suit themselves." So we should naturally expect them to do. Most men, when they wish to do a thing well, endeavor to do it in a manner that pleases themselves. And this is perhaps the best general rule that one can adopt for doing good work. But when it falls in the Grange, as it sometimes must, both there and elsewhere, the critical lookers-on have a speedy remedy in taking hold themselves. If the Grange has debates, two or three men have to do all the debating; if it has essays, two or three have to write all the essays; if it has readings, two or three have to do all the reading. Its business is transacted by a few energetic brothers; and its feasts prepared by a few enterprising sisters.

Now, what is the result of such a state of things? Simply this: The work of the Grange is unnecessarily burdensome to the few working members, and it is not so well performed as it would be if all co-operated in it. We mean, of course, the work of the Grange so far as it depends on those subordinate societies in which the above described condition of affairs exists. In many, we are glad to say, all the members unite in doing whatever is to be done. In this way no one of them is compelled to neglect his private duties, and each one is more interested in the Order and more anxious to do what will tend to its highest success. It is, therefore, desirable that we should have more co-operation among the members of subordinate Granges in conducting the meetings, performing the exercises, getting up the picnics, building the halls, etc. The slowness and lack of interest in a Grange is sometimes attributed to the fact that the Master is incompetent. Any Grange whose Master is inefficient has, undoubtedly, to contend with a serious drawback, but it should not be so dependent on any one member, whether an officer or not, as to become entirely useless when he proves incapable. If the principles of co-operation were adopted by the members with that heartiness and entirety that they should be, it would not be so.

#### Be Encouraged and Falter Not.

The Southern Rural Gentleman has the following:—If so much has been accomplished by the farmers' movement in so short a time, what may we not expect from it with age and a more enlarged experience? No Patron should suffer himself to abate in the least in effort to perfect the work of the Order, or complete the reform so happily begun and which is making such rapid progress. Evidences of progress and improvement are seen everywhere, and when the question is asked from where this new state of things come, we are constrained to answer, through the workings of the principles of the Patrons of Husbandry. By their work inside of the gate, a cheerful and hopeful aspect is made to pervade everything without, and an animation exists which could not have been brought about by any other means, or drawn from any other source. With a realization of these industrial and improving signs, should we not be more persevering and more determined to prosecute our work, until the country is not only relieved from debt and rendered independent, but our social and educational system perfected? It appears to us that the Patrons have everything to encourage them. If that which was expected at the beginning has not been as fully realized as was desirable, enough has been done to enlist our confidence in ultimate results, and excite a spirit of resolute perseverance. Through the instrumentality of our teachings and practice, hundreds of thousands have already been saved to the country, and the industrial skies are brightening in a most marvelous manner. The principle of economy taught in the Grange manifests itself in every day life, and the confidence that has been so long lost, or held in abeyance, is being rapidly restored. Some important and advanced steps have been taken in the improvement of our labor system, and work is more generally and thoroughly prompt than for very many years past. These healthy influences are not only at work upon Patrons, but they are operating upon farmers generally, and, indeed, upon all departments of business, and upon all classes of people. Be encouraged, therefore, Patrons, by the good you have already done through your organization, and be stimulated to renewed effort, and a more enlivened interest and a more determined purpose to advance in Grange meetings and Grange interests.

#### The Higher Work of the Order.

By the higher work of the Order is meant all that is not commercial, all that has not money-making for its immediate object. It is educational; and the purpose of it is to make farmers more scientific in their agriculture, to refine their taste, to broaden their sympathies and to extend their knowledge. The accomplishment of this purpose will enable farmers to labor intelligently and so increase their power for production. Their efforts will be made more wisely, and will be less frequently fruitless. Their exertions will be more uniformly and, on the whole, more largely rewarded. Hence, while the higher work of the Order is not directly concerned in money-making, is one of its remote objects. So the accomplishment of the higher work will, by making them more productive, make them wealthier.

Another indirect purpose of the higher work of the Order is the wise spending of money. If that intellectual and moral improvement, the effecting of which is the higher work, ever takes place, farmers as a class will have broader views regarding the use of money. They will get more, and a better kind of, enjoyment, than they do now, from such portions of their wealth as they devote to pleasure. They will realize more fully, than they do now, that recreation and idleness are not synonymous terms, and that money spent in pleasure is not necessarily wasted. Their highest amusement will not then be a county fair, or a visit to a neighbor. They will then have learned to enjoy the reading of a good book and the contemplation of a fine picture; and they will appreciate the wisdom of purchasing books and pictures. A beautiful home will then be recognized as a profitable investment; and the test of a profitable investment will not so frequently be the per cent. per annum it yields.

In one of its indirect purposes, the increase of the farmers' wealth, the educational is the same as the commercial; in the other it is supplementary. Moreover, the successful accomplishment of the one is dependent on the successful accomplishments of the others. To extend and carry out the business work of the Order as we expect to, there will have to be some education; and to succeed in this educational work as largely as we hope to do, Patrons will need to make more money.

The two branches of the work of the Order being thus closely related and thus mutually dependent, we cannot safely neglect either. Both must be prosecuted vigorously. There is, however, a tendency in some quarters to allow the commercial to override the educational work. Too much attention is paid to the business feature. If either must receive more attention than the other, it should be the educational, for it is much more difficult of accomplishment. It is easy enough to preach good doctrines, but to get people to practise them is always a slow and, oftentimes, a hopeless task. For this reason we cannot be too persistent and persevering in the educational work of the Order. Some critics have scouted at the idea that an organization could, by inculcating moral precepts, make farmers as a class more honest and just in their dealings with others and among themselves, could lead them to surround themselves with refining comforts; and could induce them to be more systematic and thorough in their farming. Whether the sneer shall prove to be profound wisdom or extravagant folly, is for us to say. If we devote ourselves to both branches of the work, neglecting neither the educational nor the commercial, there can be but one result. If we do not allow our energy in the organization and running of co-operative stores and in the carrying out of our other business enterprises, to abate, and if we display an equal amount of energy in keeping up our grange meetings and in making them a source of improvement to mind and heart, the noble Order of Patrons will be abundantly successful, educationally and commercially; and more successful in both respects than it could have been in either, if one had been neglected.

#### Non-Political.

There is yet a lingering belief in the minds of some well-meaning persons that the Grange movement is a political one, notwithstanding the pointed declarations to the contrary in its platform of principles, and the frequent assertions of its leaders. There is not a single act from its origin to the present time that can be construed into anything political, or even squinting in that direction; not one. Every Grange eschews the whole thing, and will not allow the question of politics to come up in any shape.

We do not disguise the fact that we are extremely anxious to disabuse the public mind on this subject, for we dislike to see so worthy an institution crippled and retarded by these false accusations. Its aims are too valuable to be damaged after this fashion. If those who are constantly flaunting these things into our teeth would take the trouble and pains to study its genius, and to comprehend its widely published creed, they would soon discover their error, and if they were honest and disposed to do the fair thing, they would cease their snarling opposition on this account.

To-day we have every shade and color of political sentiment in our Order, and, up to this time, there has not been a jar in our ranks. And why? Because it is so well known among us that we will not tolerate the agitation of politics, and that we will promptly expel a man who would dare to do it. We are not blind to the stubborn fact, so full of significance, that our organization, now so strong and powerful, could not survive one twelve months if this apple of discord were thrown into our midst. It would ruin it. Besides, there is no desire to make the concern a political machine. We are too anxious to ameliorate the intellectual, moral, social and financial well being of the agricultural world to embark in such folly.—Living Age and Outlook.

Philadelphia Press: It seems that though not one person educated at an agricultural college took up with agriculture directly as a profession, yet the branches of art and sciences connected with agriculture, which the students learn, must influence their subsequent career as citizens in whatever position of life they may occupy, and this influence will of course be favorable to the interests of the class among whom they were educated.

A female witness in a court in Plumas county, California, asked permission to return to the stand for a moment, and this was her additional testimony: "Well, what I wanted to say is, that the complainant's wife had the reputation of wearing false teeth and doing her hair up in paper to make it curl. I forgot to swear to it when I was up here before."