

For the Farmer's Advocate.

A Few Thoughts.

CLUSTER No. 5.

CONSCIENCE.—Everybody has a conscience. This is a statement which requires no proof; it is an undeniable fact. But to say that all have an equal amount, or rather, to say that all consciences are alike, would, on the other hand, be as incorrect as it would be absurd. So then, everybody has a conscience of some kind, though they are as varied as the individuals that possess them. Some have a weak, or "tender conscience," as it is called; that is, one which is easily hurt or troubled, one which is pained by the smallest act of injustice or wrong. Such a conscience, though designated "weak," or "tender," is, nevertheless, the only kind of conscience that it is safe to be governed and guided by; but, like most things of rare worth, it is possessed by comparatively speaking but few.

Some consciences are as it were "seared with a hot iron," so that all feeling is destroyed. This kind, as well as being the most dangerous, is—sad to say—by far too common. And allow me just here to make the remark, that although it is often a very easy matter for the tender conscience to become hardened, it is a "terrible hard" matter for the conscience once "seared" to have its former sensibility again restored. In what a dreadful state is the man or woman whose conscience is seared! Nor is the state of that man or woman less dreadful whose conscience is such that they can commit acts of actual dishonesty or injustice without any compunction of conscience. Some people are actually so blinded by ignorance and sin that they can commit almost any ordinary crime, and excuse themselves by making the self-righteous and cool observation, "Oh, my conscience doesn't accuse me?" The difference between these two classes of people seems to be, that the former sin openly without trying to excuse themselves, while the latter indulge in sin, under the pretence of being governed by conscience!—Which is the worst?

Admonitory Remark.—Let conscience be our guide, but let it correspond with the Bible.

JAMES LAWSON.

CLUSTER No. 6.

MUSIC.—It has been said, "There is nothing like music." We fully endorse the sentiment. What can equal music in innocence, grandeur and delight? The joys of earth and heaven break forth in enrapturing strains of music. In what other way could the pent-up joys which glow within the soul so well be vented forth as in grateful songs of praise?—The most exquisite feelings of gratitude and delight are thus poured forth in sacred song to Him "from whom all blessings flow." Nor does music only give vent to the joyous emotions which emanate from the gladdened heart, but seems also to increase and heighten that joy. Music should therefore be regarded as one of the choicest gifts which our bountiful Creator has bestowed upon us.

It is evident that music was designed to be a source of pleasure to mankind. And not only has the love of music been implanted within us, but ample means for the enjoyment of it, and the exercise of our musical powers, have also been freely given to us. We enjoy the mingled harmony of our own voices, sweetly blended together in tuneful concord. We enjoy the rich deep tones pealing forth from those exquisite pieces of workmanship, the product of the extraordinary genius of the inventors of musical instruments. We enjoy, also, the gladdening voices of the feathered songsters, as they pour forth in sweetest melodies their songs of gratitude to Nature's God.

What a delightful exercise is singing! And especially so when aided by the additional notes of some appropriate musical instrument. No wonder that music is represented to us as being the chief employment and delight of the dwellers in the new Jerusalem. If then the inhabitants of the world above regard music as the sweetest employment in which they can engage, surely we ought to esteem it a great privilege to be permitted to join in such a delightful exercise!

Nor is the fact that music is pleasing to the ear, the only thing that could be said in its favor. The effects which it produces are alone sufficient to recommend it to our attention. An almost infinite amount of good results from it. To mention all, or even half, would swell this Cluster to an enormous size; I will therefore mention only a very small share of the good which results from music.

First, it drives away melancholy and ban-

ishes grief. Again, it produces feelings of thankfulness, adoration and sincerity. It stimulates to more earnestness in the discharge of duty, removes malice and ill-will, and fills the heart with love to God and man. Then again it is healthy. Singing is one of the best (and cheapest) medicines that can be had.

However, as I must hasten to a conclusion, I will only add that everybody who has any musical talent should assiduously cultivate it. Music should be taught in all our schools. It should rank among the foremost of all the various branches of education. "There is nothing like music."

JAMES LAWSON.

Elginburg, Ont., Nov. 1, 1870.

The Music of Labor.

I love the plowman's whistle,
The reaper's cheerful song,
The drover's oft-repeated shout,
Spurring his stock along;
The bustle of the market man,
As he hies him to the town,
The halloo from the tree top
As the ripened fruit comes down;
The husker's joke and catch of glee,
Neath the moonlight on the plain;
The kind voice of the drayman,
The shepherd's gentle call—
Those sounds of pleasant industry
I love, I love them all.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Poultry, Sugar Making, Ditching.

Bridgeport, Oct. 29, 1870.

Dear Sir,—As you continually ask your subscribers to write on any subject of interest to farmers, and particularly requested me to give my experience in Sugar-making—which I will do as soon as I am fairly in operation, and will send you a sample of the sugar as soon. At the present the machines are barely at work, and the Beets are coming in rapidly. I shall have the factory in operation in two or three weeks, and should be pleased to see you here at that time.

I will now give you my experience with Poultry. On the 30th of March last I had 42 barn door fowls, 4 ducks, 9 geese and 4 turkeys. The hens laid 248 doz. eggs, at 12¢. per doz., \$31; the ducks laid 18 doz. eggs, at 12¢. each, \$2.25; raised 9 young turkeys at 50¢. each, \$4.50; raised 13 young geese at 37¢. each, \$4.81; raised 20 young ducks at 12¢. each, \$2.50; raised 145 young chickens at 12¢. each, \$18.12; sold 16 lbs. feathers at 56¢. per lb., \$8.96; making a total of \$72.21. The expense of keeping was 28 bushels of grain for the seven months, at 50¢. per bushel, \$14.—Ducks and hen's eggs used for hatching, 24 doz. at 12¢. per dozen, \$3; total expense \$17, leaving a balance of \$55.21.

Now this is taking the eggs and poultry at a low rate, as some of the eggs were sold at 17¢. per doz., and none as low as 12¢. The chickens would find ready sale at 37¢. each; the ducks also would sell at a higher price; turkeys would fetch more, but were almost a failure, and so were the geese. I have put the whole at a very low rate, in order to show that the smallest thing on a farm pays if properly managed, after all that the greater number of farmers say, that farming does not pay in our days. Now the reader may think this was the summer season, and they did not require so much food. But to show that they got all they could eat—there was a wheat field not over 6 rods from the pen, in which they were allowed to run, and they did not destroy half a bushel of the wheat. If any one desires information about feeding, breeding, &c., I am willing to give it.

The Ditching Machine I procured from you works well, but I cannot do the work with it that it is recommended to do, as my farm is too stoney. However, I can make from 80 to 100 rods of ditch per day with it, and at that rate it will pay any farmer that has much draining to do to buy a machine, and those who have not much draining to do it will pay better to hire a machine than to buy one.

I remain, yours, &c.,

MOSES KRAFT.

Accept our thanks for your valuable information.

We are too busy to accept your kind invitation. We are pleased with your Ditching Machine approbation.

Your sugar enterprise deserves the attention of the nation.

To you we will look for further information. If good we will give the sugar commendation.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Listen to the Children.

Respected Sir,—We received your welcome Advocate on the 5th inst., and it not only contains useful and practical knowledge, but some anagrams, puzzles and riddles which will occupy us pleasantly for some time, as they are very hard in this number.

Among all the papers which father takes your Advocate is worth the whole of them, as you have writers from Australia to Kansas. The Early Rose Potatoes are a perfect success. When father measures them he will send you the result.

I am getting up a club for the Advocate.

JANETTA JOHNSON.

Wyandott, Nov. 7, 1870.

We hope each of our readers will add a name or two this month.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Our Harvest.

MR. WELD, SIR,—As you desire information in regard to the yield of different crops in various parts of the country, I will furnish you with the results in this neighborhood.

This season has been far too wet for grain. The yield is much below the average. The fall wheat will not average over six bushels per acre, although on one piece of well-drained land the crop yielded 36 bushels per acre. This was the Treadwell wheat. Peas were a mere nothing. I do not think they would exceed five bushels per acre. Barley is very bad in color. The average will not exceed 10 bushels per acre. Corn has done well where the land could be cultivated, but in many places it was impossible to do so, on account of the wet state of the land. The hay and grass crops have been good. The potatoes in many places would not pay for the labor of digging, and some were not dug—although on dry land the crop has been good. The best crop that I had was Norway oats. When first I procured them I was much dissatisfied with their appearance, as they were a poor-looking oat—about the worst-looking oat I ever put on my land. I felt dissatisfied and galled, but the yield gave me satisfaction, and this year I sowed no other kind. I sowed some oats at the rate of 26 quarts to the acre, and some at one bushel per acre. My yield was not half as good as it would have been had the land been dry and in order; but as it was, they yielded 60 bushels per acre, while the common oats, sown on quite as good land on an adjoining field owned by my neighbor, only yielded 40 bushels per acre. I have seen the Norway oats sown at the rate of two bushels per acre, but I consider one bushel better than two.

If any of these remarks are of use to you, you may use them or burn them.

Yours respectfully,

JACOB MORSE.

Fingal, Nov. 21, 1870.

Any agricultural information is of value to us. We wish to give facts, and farmers and others must draw their inferences from the above letter. We must all see the loss that has been sustained in one vicinity alone. We have been through that section of country; the soil is of good quality, and only requires to be drained. Compare 36 bushels per acre with 6 bushels per acre, and who would not drain? Compare 60 bushels of oats to 40; and the 60 might have been 100 if draining was properly done. The real facts are plain, that many farmers must either sell out, be sold out, or DRAIN—then get good seed.

From the Country Gentleman.

The Potato Crop:

WITH REFLECTIONS ON ITS CULTURE.

We have been advising the early planting of potatoes for years, not only for early sorts, but all kinds, the latest as well as any. Will our friends note the effect where early planting has been done, and in comparison with others of the same sort planted later? Perhaps a few have been planted quite early; this is the true test, but only, be it understood, in connection with dry (drained) soil. Wet land may rot the potato quite early planted. Drained, the ground will be warmer, and there will be no cold, foul water to drown and rot the seed. We never knew an early crop of potatoes on good dry soil to fail if attended to.

A drouth does not affect it, nor does a superabundance of rain.

To secure the crop the more effectually, we must plant deep, 6 to 7 inches, and keep the land level, not a ridge to dry out. If planted shallow there will be potatoes too near the surface, and some quite exposed, which will get poisoned by the sun. But put down deep—remember your soil is porous—and the sun, especially if your land is clay largely, will have no effect. There will be no scalding, as we have known where potatoes tender and growing, were near the surface exposed to the hot rays of the sun. Put the potato down where it is moist and cool, and you are safe. Then work the top soil as much as you please, the more the better. Keep a level surface. Mulch if you like with straw, which is manure and protection from the sun and a guard against the weeds.

Since we are on the subject let us give the best experience on the distance of planting. Too far of course will not do, nor too close either. The course between them is the thing. Plant generally 12 to 15 inches apart in the row, single eye, and two feet and a half between the rows. This will give room to work and make the Early Rose and other good sorts excellent, with no very large ones, and few small ones, and an improvement in quality. This has been tested in Great Britain thoroughly, and the Irish brought it to this country.

The distance is varied somewhat, and should be to meet the different sorts, in respect to the spread (large growth) of the vine, and also of the tuber (extending in the ground). As to the manures, if these are needed, which is probable, ashes are very good as a mineral manure applied to the hill, either on the seed, a small quantity, or outside. For a general manure there is nothing so good as sod, turned down in the fall or very early spring, but no, you cannot get it in the land early enough by spring plowing of the sod, for while you are plowing it should be planted. You must therefore turn your sod in the fall, and plow and pulverise in the spring. This you can do with your drained soil. And as soon as ready, plant. Sod and ashes and other manures not rank, will add sweetness to your tuber as well as dispose of them.

Potatoes treated in this way cannot fail to be a good crop, and leave the ground in the best condition.

Where the land is not drained or dry there is risk in planting early, especially in planting deep. The drouth will also affect such a crop as is well enough known, for such is the general crop.

How to Keep Your Apples.

On account of our unusually behind season many of the early winter apples show signs of decaying earlier than usual. We recommend those who have large quantities stored, to market them early, or use them in some other way. Perhaps the following recipes may yet be of advantage to some of our readers.

CIDER WINE.

Take one barrel of cider from the press; let it stand three days to settle and ferment; then draw it off into a cask while it runs clear; turn it into another barrel, bung it up tight, and in three weeks draw it off again; take two ounces of Cooper's isinglass, and mix it with a quart of cider, and add a pint more cider, let that stand another day, then beat it up well, and add two quarts more of cider, and beat it thick; turn this into the barrel of cider, and stir it through the bung-hole till it is thoroughly mixed; beat it for fifteen minutes at least; now fasten it up tight for three weeks, then draw it off, and either bottle or keep it on draft, but closely fastened.

A less intricate method is, to pulverise charcoal then put one pint of it into a cotton bag and put it into the barrel; the cider will keep sweet, and will improve the longer it is kept, and it is said will never intoxicate.

CHAMPAGNE CIDER.

Take one barrel of pure cider made from sound apples, no decayed ones; mix with it forty pounds of light brown sugar, dissolving it with some of the cider in a tub while it is perfectly free from fermentation; place the barrel in a cool cellar, and let it work thoroughly from the bung-hole, filling it up as it evaporates, with some that has been saved out for that purpose; when it has worked a week or so, bung it up securely; draw it off in March, and put in a clean cask, stopped tightly; it can be bottled in May or June, and it is well to coat the corks with melted tallow and resin, using one ounce