

## PREFACE.

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The publishers of the **ANNUAL REGISTER OF RURAL AFFAIRS**, in presenting the number for 1857, are led to express the belief that its contents will be found not less useful and entertaining than those of its predecessors. The subjects discussed are either new or treated in continuation of chapters given heretofore. The illustrations are, many of them, more costly, and especially prepared for the **REGISTER**. Every effort has been made to secure neatness and taste in typographical execution.

For the benefit of those who have not seen our former issues, we adjoin, on the following pages, a brief abstract of the Contents of Numbers for 1855 and 1856, and will briefly repeat the purpose in view, in the publication of the series. It is intended to offer in a plain, simple, and intelligible form, (rendered more so by ample illustrations,) the best information in relation to all the principal details of Modern Improved Farming, according to the most approved and established practice of the day, and to afford such hints on Rural Economy generally, as may enable *every farmer*, in some particulars at least, to effect important improvements. The construction of farm buildings generally, the breeding and management of domestic animals, the manufacture of manure, the cultivation of crops; the planting, training and culture of fruit trees; laying out door-yard grounds and ornamental planting, kitchen gardening, the construction and use of improved farm implements and machines; and, in short, every department of practical knowledge immediately connected with modern agriculture, will be presented in a condensed form, and in a practical manner, to the reader. It will be continued annually, with such improvements as experience shall suggest in each successive year, so that it may constitute an authentic **ANNUAL REGISTER** of the true progress of Rural Improvement.

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**NOTE TO EDITORS.**—This work is not a compilation. Most of it is original matter prepared expressly for this purpose; and the remainder, with the exception of scarcely a page or two, is from previous publications of the author. Many of the engravings, including nearly all on rustic structures, all the dwellings, &c., are also original.

The preceding numbers have been very favorably noticed by the press, but have been erroneously represented as compilations, and, as a consequence, the contents, and especially the shorter articles, have been profusely copied into hundreds of papers all through the country, **WITHOUT CREDIT**. Editors who may in future desire to transfer, any of the contents to their pages, they will please give credit to "Tucker's Rural Register."