

How to Combine Money-making with Pleasure.

(By A. L.)

Dear Girls,—being a farm-owner myself I know whereof I speak because I have been in many cities and lived in some. Now I am going to tell you a few secrets that if practised, will make you more contented with farm life. Everyone supposes himself capable of giving advice and not everyone cares to accept, but why should I take a notion to impart a measure of my success to you? Because I know if you have a practical and practicable means of money-making that you will be more in love with life for farm life is really the best and most healthful in the world, especially if the other members of the home are kind. If not you can make money anyway—which is the third best aid to happiness. (For aren't kindness of others, and your own honesty the first two sources of happiness?) Did you ever learn the profit derived from gardening? "But," you say "I'm not strong enough to engage in manual labor." I say it will make you strong. I weigh under 105 lbs. If you are more frail than that, you need the out-door exercise to rebuild your broken constitution. Can you not obtain a small plot of good soil, purchase two ounces of Wethersfield or Yellow Globe Danvers onion seed and earn your spending-money for the summer, or buy cauliflower seed, sow in one corner of the hotbed, and reap a good sum? This entails more trips to market, as cauliflowers mature unevenly, while onions can be sold all at one time. In some towns there is easy sale for wee cucumbers, cauliflowers, or onions, already pickled, if you have a talent along that line. I don't mean peddling, but at the grocery or hotel to which you sell your butter, eggs, fowls, etc. A scheme which I have found successful, as I never sold on the market, is to stop at the same hotel until well acquainted with the proprietors. Then I tell them what I have for sale. As they have noticed that I am a patron of theirs, they willingly pay me for my surplus produce. They are sure I could have no object in palming off a stale article upon them.

Have you ever tried raising ground cherries? Five cents' worth of seed sown in a hotbed, transplanted like tomatoes, will yield you ten dollars if properly attended to. If you wish to look ahead to future profit—set out strawberry plants. It will be a delightful surprise to learn how easily you can supply the neighbors with this necessary fruit. "Oh! but"—someone says, "we haven't any experience. How can we succeed without training in gardening?" Learn by experience. Some catalogues volunteered by seed firms for the asking, give valuable information. Rennie gives a 25-cent book with all necessary instructions, with every \$2 seed order, I think. Ask people what you don't know, and you will at least find vast amusement in learning that each will advise a different method of procedure. You can learn from this that more ways than one spell success to an earnest, intelligent worker.

What about contracting with father to thin an acre of field carrots or sugar beets? You can do it mornings and evenings. You can work wonders with an old steel table fork. One year I did all the work in a carrot-patch, producing 100 bushels, besides teaching school and caring for the family garden, which produced everything, from spinach to brusselsprouts, including flowers for cutting for every day, from early pansy-time until the late dahlias froze. If you have no artist's delight in the long, straight rows of vegetables, change the effect by introducing flower seeds every fifth row, or as you have space to spare. How much more "homey" a table looks with a low flower decoration, a dish of radishes cuddling in lettuce, and some sprays of parsley on the meat-platter. Now, I took it for granted that you can all get a garden-spot, if you have to rent a plot that was ploughed last fall. For others who find these suggestions impracticable, this is to be continued.



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