

Communications.

We do not endorse all that is advanced by our various correspondents; but with a view to sift whatever may prove an advantage to agriculture, we are always happy to insert articles which will awaken an interest in the minds of those engaged in it, and solicit replies from those whose experience may be against the views of any of our correspondents. We want facts, and this is the way to get at them.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

A Few Thoughts.

CLUSTER No. 9.—FARMERS.

Many people seem to entertain the notion that anybody knows enough to be a farmer. They think if a man is strong and healthy, and has only a very moderate share of intellect, he has all that is necessary for a farmer to possess. These people are greatly mistaken. There is a difference, of course, between the farmer and the professional man, and also between the farmer and the mechanic; but it is a gross mistake to suppose that anybody who has a good constitution—either with or without brains—is good enough for a farmer.

I have just intimated that there is a difference between the requisites for a farmer, and those necessary for a professional man or a mechanic. The professional man not only works for his own interests, but also those of others. The mechanic, too, while he works for himself is working for others; and as his prosperity depends upon his success in giving satisfaction to his patrons, it is of the highest importance that he should be thoroughly acquainted with his business. And in order for the professional man to succeed in his profession, and the mechanic in his business, it is necessary that they should be men of intellect, information and experience. But the same is also true of the farmer. He works on a more independent system, to be sure; but in order to succeed it is just as necessary for farmers to be men of brains and men of information, as anybody else. It must be admitted that men who are deficient in these respects succeed better as farmers than as either ministers, doctors, lawyers or mechanics; but to attend to farming as it ought to be attended to, there is not one half of the men who think themselves above it, who are competent to do it.

CONCLUSION.—It is a great mistake for anyone to think himself too intelligent for a farmer. No one ever yet arrived at that point. A farmer as well as anybody else ought to be a man of good practical sense and extensive information. Every farmer should take a good agricultural paper—say the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

What other business is so honorable and healthy as farming?

JAMES LAWSON.

CLUSTER No. 10.—ECONOMY.

This word, like many others, is not generally well understood. It is easy to be familiar with a word, and at the same time fail to comprehend its exact meaning. There is a great deal comprehended in the word *Economy*. It means a great deal—besides a great deal that it does not mean. (But don't understand me to be giving the words, "a great deal," as the exact literal meaning of the word "Economy,"—for though I don't profess to be a proficient in lexicography, I nevertheless flatter myself that this would be a more gross blunder than I have ever yet been guilty of, for I remember that the spelling-book used to give "good management" as the definition of the word *Economy*.)

Now, as I have just said, the meaning of this word is very comprehensive; consequently I must content myself by noticing only a very small share of what properly does and does not come under its heading.

The first thing that strikes my mind—probably you guess why,—is the education

of the rising generation. It is not economy for parents to keep their children at home from school just because there are a few chores for the children to do at home, but which might be done just as well by themselves, or by somebody else, or by the children before or after school hours, or might be left undone altogether. The work ought to be of a very important character which keeps children at home when they ought to be at school. The period of youth is passed through only once, and should, therefore, be improved. A few years' schooling then affects the whole of their after life. How guilty, then, are those parents who fail to educate their children either at home or at school.

Nor can it properly be called economy for a farmer to keep selling off his farm, year after year, all that he can possibly raise on it, instead of consuming and retaining it on the farm, in order to enrich the soil and preserve its fertility.

Again, it is not economy for people to live year after year without taking a paper, thinking they are by so doing saving the price of the paper; for while they imagine they are saving, they are in reality losing many times the amount which the paper would cost them. A good newspaper, agricultural paper, religious magazine, &c., always pay; none can afford to be without them. Therefore, it is economy for every man to take at least one reliable newspaper, one good paper relating to his particular business, and one good religious paper or magazine. This is the least any intelligent man can afford to take.

Finally, the best economy is to "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," which will secure "the promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

JAMES LAWSON.

Elginburg, Jan. 2, 1871.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Our Kansas Letter.

Dear Sir,—I got last month's Advocate with some English and Canadian papers all right. I need not remind you how acceptable they are to us. I put off writing you till after Christmas, not wishing to burden you with correspondence. I had a peep in the N. Y. Tribune last two weeks, a tidy paper for the Yankees, threatens the Dominion about the fishery bounds, and is going to frighten England right into settling the Alabama claims, &c. Whew!!! We can talk that over when we meet. I will reply, and give you the news as it occurs to me, you can pick it out and English it, I have no pretensions to correctness.

This Franco-Prussian war has disappointed farmers here as well as at home. Everything has gone down in value except gold, and times I see have become tighter on farmers. England has lost a good ally in France, but affairs in Europe are so complicated that an opinion is not worth a rap. Louis Napoleon has shown himself a mean, snivelling, shuffling, cowardly old duffer, to bring on a war, and then strike colors at the beginning; I would never have given in; I would rather die. I feel truly sorry for the French people. I am the only man in this part of Kansas who sympathizes with the French; too much of the German element here. I do not go to extremes on Prussia. My motto is fair play, and equality in measures and business.

Christmas day got no goose, as usual. By the bye, your goose that you speak of costing you 40c.; did the party that supplied it to you steal it? Eh! I have seen thousands of wild geese here, but few tame ones; they are always wanting a shower, and are dry and dirty. They keep geese for the feathers, and pluck them four times a year. Ducks let out at half shares are sent back at the expiration of the time—naked, and have to be clothed to keep them alive—so they tell me; I see none about here; as for eating them, they couldn't understand, goose, ducks or mutton, nothing but bacon and dodgers. They say to me, "Mr. ——— how is your

family? Have't you got the chills?" "No." "How wonderfully you all escape it." My secret is, beef, pork, cabbage, potatoes, milk, cream, best flour *ad lib.*, with a drop of whiskey now and then, plenty of blankets, and not out at night. Oh, how terribly scantily off some poor settlers are here in Kansas.

We lately killed about 40 rabbits and 40 quails, and we are seldom without them. The quails are as good as partridges at home; I never eat better or finer birds. Got two fresh pigs legs smashed up with twelve quails for our Christmas dinner, a good pudding and quietness, being 7 miles from anywhere. Am milking two cows, grubbing along tidy, but am discontented, no church, or chapel, or society. Traded a few potatoes for apples, but the frost destroyed them. Michigan supplies Kansas with fruit. Talk about this state being good for fruit. Phoo! you would starve for fruit here, unless it comes from elsewhere. Beef still lean and poor, and tough into the bargain; mutton tastes goaty, is scabby, and has all sorts of diseases; pork is good, corn fed. I kill a good many hogs for the neighbors, which keeps me in sausage-meat, ribs, &c. You see, I take payment in kind; it is just as good to me. I have a pair of good English knives, stick standing and never miss, skewer and dress them up to the admiration of these know-nothing fellows who pretend to kill pigs. They murder them, and destroy the meat, knock them on the head, shoot them, and do all sorts of misery; they are barbarous villains to ducks, geese or hogs. You say you can get a glass of good cider, and company to spend a pleasant evening with. None of that here; they don't know enough to be social, say nothing of cider or manners. They cry out against whiskey, but give it to them, and God help the man who pays for it. Some are so religious that it shocks them to hear I keep whiskey, particularly the ladies. But ask them into my house, put it on the table, and I notice it takes very little persuasion for them to partake of it. Some of them would preach a good sermon, and at the same time would filch your pocket-book. What a miserable lot find their way to this state. Every week I notice in the papers eight or ten shooting or hanging affairs,—last week twelve I believe. Senators, judges, lawyers and place-hunters are mixed up in these murderous attacks. This is a place of refuge for the refuse of all countries, and mind you it is full of them; and it is time an earthquake happened to swallow them up.

I shall expect to exchange a note or two with you ere I quit this place. You state that my letters in the ADVOCATE has opened the eyes of some in Canada who intended to try Kansas. Canada must be fearfully bad if it is no better than this place. There is pay for work done with you, but men who work here tell me it is the hardest thing on earth to get a dollar, and no boarding is dear and scarce too. The farmers have hardly a wind; it is a poor, dry, uncertain country. They say there never was such a summer known, and now they say there never was such a winter known. I was talking a few days ago with an old Englishman who came from Illinois five years ago; came on account of his family taking up claims. He says he would rather live four years north than fourteen here. He says there is no money, no work, and no crops. Killed out with drouth and wind, the brightest windy bag old country you ever dreamt of. The small crops must tell ruinously on the farmers, unless they have a well-filled purse to fall back on. I don't see really how anybody can get along here. I recently met a Canadian, he laughed at Kansas, and said he is going back as soon as he can scrape up a few dollars to do so with. From what I can gather from old settlers, who I criticize occasionally on the quid, that is a precarious climate to live in. If it is half as good as many would have you believe, why do those who own 300 to 400 acres look so thin, meagre, spiritless, are so badly clad, and live on such food, have mean houses, deficient of things the most

common necessities they know nothing about. There is no timber for building, fencing or burning; and bear in mind taxes are heavy. I think things are faded lights in Kansas than any other place. These are so many humbugs to support, and so much thieving done in the State, and if you can't pay your taxes on your property, the taxes are sold by auction at the Court House, and the purchaser allowed 50 per cent on his purchase, and after a time the purchaser will sell you out—sharp practice this. Some of the farmers have as much as \$100 to pay, and they are selling off their little produce to meet to pay taxes. I know some who are not so well off here as our paupers are in the Unions at home. There they would be warm and have a belly full. Talk about the wealth of the country, it is all a farce; where is it? There are no minerals, no woods, no factories, no industries, no capital; it is boiling with Jews and ready-made clothing shops; goods dear and poor in quality; groceries, hardware and anything you want frightfully so; all the little cash these storekeepers gets, is earned somewhere else, and brought here by poor, deluded emigrants, and unless they continue to flow in there will be a general reaction and bust up, and more of these air built cities that are surveyed will become unoccupied. I tell you Kansas has a prairie qualification, nothing else, and if the climate was not so dry and uncertain, in 20 years it would be fit to live in, and then it would be just worth per acre what they ask for it now. They ask more for land now here than in similar situations in New York State, and this place is so out of the way, it is inland, that goods cost so much in transit, and produce is worth so little; there is no lake, river or sea influence, how can it be anything desirable? I take notice of the general discontent, everyone wants to sell his claim and clear out somewhere else. New Years Day in. I wish all the compliments of the season, past, present and future. To-day a neighbor called on me to have a drop of whiskey, and exchange the compliments of the season; he has lived six years in Kansas, got a good farm—that is, it is as good as any Kansas farm—wants to borrow \$250 at 12 per cent.; acknowledges that he is nothing so well off as when he began. This sum is more than he can clear from his farm next year outside of providing for his family sparingly. The New Year is in with a south wind, not cold, but blustering and howling. Dry, oh! the sky looks so bright; if there was rain, even occasionally, and tame grasses would grow, and one could get pastures; with 150 good settlers around to constitute schools, church and club, the place might do. Wishing you good health, with cheap geese, &c., 40 cents. Eh!!! that price tickles me.

Believe me, truly yours,

SICK OF KANSAS.

Douglas Co., Kansas, Jan. 1, 1871.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Glanworth, January, 1871.

Sir,—Seeing that you give two remedies for persons having been poisoned by Ivy in your last paper, I have seen many persons poisoned by it, and the most speedy and certain cure I have ever seen tried has been sulphur and buttermilk. Half a teaspoonful of sulphur mixed in half a pint of buttermilk, and wash the part affected two or three times and immediate relief follows.

P. GUERIN.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Lambeth, January 12, 1871.

Sir,—I procured two bushels of Calico Potatoes from you, which yielded me 101 bushels. I gave them the same treatment in cultivation as I gave the Garnet Chilli, Meshanocks and Pink Eyes. The Garnet Chilli gave me about the same yield; the Pink Eyes about half of either of these, and the Meshanock rather more than either of the two last named. I consider the Calico by much the better quality of the different kinds.

Yours truly,

JAMES LEWIS.