

# The O. A. C. Review.

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MARCH, 1894.

## Business Ways Overdone.



HERE is a big talk about business in farming nowadays, but it seems to me, judging from the practice of some that the thing must be overdone. Now, my neighbor had forgotten just when to expect the next litter of pigs and not having provided for them, some of them, about half, succumbed to the cold. His neighbors said he needed a little more system and business in his farming. But look at the bother of looking up a pencil and note book to put down every little thing, and besides the remaining five will do better than the nine would, and they will need less grain to fatten them, and this is quite a consideration, you see, for when grain is cheap a farmer needs to roll all he can to make a little.

Again some men seem to think that it pays to draw as much manure on to the land in winter as possible, saying that it eases the arduous summer work and that they get the benefit of it one year sooner, &c., but there are two sides to the question. You see if you do things that way you lose the chance of rotting the manure well by leaving it in the farm yard all summer. Besides this latter method keeps the yard nice and wet, and very dirty, thus keeping the hired help from getting too proud over their clean boots; it also furnishes extra work to the teamsters keeping their horses legs in order, thus preventing them from getting lazy. If a wet summer it will likely be lighter work drawing out the manure in the fall, as the richest parts of it will probably have taken a trip down the nearest ditch, and any way a very rich fertilizer is likely to make the crops run too much to straw.

Others make all haste to get their wood supply, for the entire year, ready for the stove in winter time. But we have known several who do otherwise. Of course it is alright to have a heap of nice dry wood at hand, but then you see if there comes a wet spell next harvest what are you going to put your hired men at if you have no wood to saw or split? And if you have to stop teams and men in the middle of some pressing work next summer to draw up a cord of wood

why you know "a change of work is as good as a rest." Besides if the farmer's wife and the hired girl have to split the wood themselves, now and then, it will prevent the former from becoming too proud for her position, and from spending all her time in the parlor entertaining company, while the latter will not stay so long that you will forget all about the pleasure and novelty of securing domestic help.

Again we have heard of farmers so particular that they kept account of what it actually cost to raise a colt to working age, of others who reckoned up the cost of feeding a milch cow twenty-four hours for the purpose of knowing if her product equalled in value the cost of her feed, and who experimented on the effect of currying and brushing on the milk flow; while some, it is said, have calculated the exact cost of raising a bushel of grain in order to know if it paid to raise such and such grains for feed and such and such grains for sale; while it is recorded of one man that he actually went to the far side of the place, a distance of at least forty-seven rods, to bring in a plow and house it from the effects of winter. But, my! what a heap of reckoning and hard thinking it must take. Even if it does take half as much more to raise a work horse than to buy one, surely it is better to have a horse to sell than one to buy. We do not pretend to be up in logic but that seems to sound right. And we don't see who a cow is going to give any more milk because her feed is weighed and her milk measured, and I presume we are not going to wear out combs and brushes just for the benefit of the tanner. As to housing implements, just look at the amount of time wasted just for the pleasure of unhousing them the next spring, whereas they might have been left where they were wanted. And suppose they do get a little rusty and perhaps break we have to get new implements every little while in order to keep up with the improvements. Oh, no; we are not quite so simple as to swallow all this talk about business and system in farmin'. We have not been farmin' nigh on forty years without being too old for that.

Yours,

OLD SUBSCRIBER.

## Y. M. C. A. Notes.

OUR Y. M. C. A. has experienced much of the Divine blessing during the past few weeks. Many of our members have, we believe, been more thoroughly awakened to the extreme need of more intensely earnest personal work. But very much, fellow students, yet remains to do. To the members of the personal worker's classes we would beg to say, take time to ponder well the lesson set for each week's consideration. Go to your class prepared to offer something as the result of careful thought and earnest prayer.

We were glad to be able to send a representative of our Association to the "Students' Volunteer Convention" lately held at Detroit. Eleven of our members attended that soul-stirring convention, among whom were: Mr. A. H. Christian, President of our Association, Mr. J. W. Widdifield, vice-president; Mr. A. M. High, treasurer; and Mr. J. J. Ferguson, chairman of the Missionary Committee. Already our Y. M. C. A. has felt the impulse of the close touch with the Master and His great work, experienced by our delegation. May it indeed be a growing impulse, ever-widening with the years.

We are much pleased to see the younger members of our Association taking such an active interest in the work. Our Thursday evening meetings continue to be times of added grace and blessing. Since finishing the Epistle to the Hebrews, our Bible Class, which meets on Sabbath afternoon at 3 o'clock, has taken up the International S. S. Lessons.