

## A FARMER PENNYWISE AND FARMER POUNDWISE.

There is a farmer Pennywise, with whom I am acquainted, will occasionally raise a good heifer, steer or colt, for his neighbor's keep good breeds, and he by accident will be occasionally benefited thereby. When he has such an animal in his flock, he is apparently uneasy until it is disposed of; and after selling such an animal, a heifer, for instance, if you follow him into the house you may hear something like the following:—"Well, my dear, I have sold the big heifer for fifteen dollars: is not that a good price for a heifer of her age?" "Good price indeed," his wife would reply, "you had better have sold two of them little cat-ham'd, crooked-legged, scrawny things that you always keep for cows. The reason that our cattle look so bad, and that we sell so little butter and cheese is, that you will sell the best heifers." Poor woman! I pity her; her pride and ambition are injured, and her children and self in rags, because her native industry and economy are cramped by the foolish and niggardly policy of her husband.

The picture is reversed in farmer Poundwise, who always keeps his best animals until full grown; then selecting his best breeders for his own use, and selling the rest. If he has a good young horse, he will say that he will make a fine team horse; a mare, she will make a good bred mare. "And what will you do with that?" says his neighbour, pointing to an ordinary animal.—"Between you and I," says he, "I shall sell that colt the first chance. Such an animal spoils the looks of the rest, and will not pay for keeping." Thus he will sell his poor steers, heifers, sheep and pigs at the first offer. If not sold, he would fatten those that would pay the expense, and give away those that would not. Not pay the expense of fattening! Are there any cattle, sheep, or hogs, that will not pay the expense of fattening? Reader, take some of each; of the real Pharaoh breed, feed them until fat, keep an account of the expense, and you can answer this question yourself. In this way farmer Poundwise always has valuable stock; his steers are ready sale and command a good price; his horses are the best in the neighbourhood, and the first to be looked at by purchasers. So with all the animals that he raises. Pennywise, on the contrary, is thronged with an ill-shaped, worthless stock that none will buy and pay the expense of raising; which are continually eating out his substance and making no return. Thus Pennywise drags on a miserable life in the road to ruin, while Poundwise moves easily and happily along in the road to wealth.—*Maine Cultivator.*

## FEMALE EDUCATION.

Females ought to receive a substantial common school education, after which, those who evinced a genius for any of the fine arts, and their own taste and parents means would allow, it would certainly be commendable to indulge them in it; but this by no means to be allowed to interfere with the study of mere useful branches.

The branch of education most useful for a woman is, housewifery; the best means of infantile instruction, and the care of infants in their infancy.

Respecting housewifery, she ought to be taught in all its various branches, not omitting the most common of a well ordered family. When the pupil has so full an opulent situation, a knowledge of those branches will enable her effectually to superintend the affairs of her household, and prevent her from being the dupes of her hirelings; and will therefore be at service at times of the greatest prosperity. But should adversity overtake her, (and in this country, and in these times, none are beyond its reach,) this part of the education, despised by many as it is, may be the means of saving herself and her family from destruction.

## FORMATION OF HABITS.

Success in life depends, in a great measure, on the early formation of our habits.—Whether our grand object be wealth or fame, or that nobler one, exalted virtue, we must shape our habits or we shall fail.—What enabled Franklin to obtain the highest honors of philosophic fame; to stand, as he expressed it, "before kings," and what is better, to live in the memory of his countrymen? The early formation of good habits. The perusal of his autobiography, no young man should omit, will show what those habits were. What made Girard the richest citizen of our country, and the benefactor of his race? The formation of early habits of frugality, disinterestedness and self-denial. Such habits are not formed in a day, nor will they result from a few faint resolutions. They are the result of continued effort.

Whatever is of value must, in most cases, be sedulously pursued. Seldom can it be caught in a moment, like a prize in the lottery, or brought to perfection like a mushroom in a few hours. Character most certainly is of slow growth. No method can force it, or hasten its ripening; like asparagus, so treated, it is sickly and without flavor. Only by long continuance, and unvaried, uninterrupted care, can this jewel be obtained, polished and set, so as to show itself to the best advantage. Not by accident, nor by fits and starts, but by regular, judicious and permanent habits, may a youth hope to obtain this important qualification, character.

Habit is either an insidious enemy, or a firm friend. We had need be much on our guard concerning its influence; rather let us enlist it and employ it judiciously; it will render us much assistance in forming a character useful, estimable and efficient.—*Buel.*

## THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SEEN.

A writer in the *Prairie Farmer* has seen some curious things. We select the following:

I have seen farmers that went to the store oftener than they went to mill.

I have seen a farmer's wife take the last twenty bushels of wheat from the granary to purchase a new dress, when her husband at the same time had an execution standing against him.

I have seen farmers that could go twenty miles to a political meeting, but would not go five to an agricultural one.

I have seen farmers that had but little except "dog fence," but I could not see that they had better crops than those that had good rail or board fence.

I have seen farmers that burned their straw when threshing their grain in the fall, and go begging the same article before spring to keep their stock alive.

I have seen a farmer that travelled one hundred and four miles in the course of a year to use his neighbour's grindstone, when two days' labour would purchase one that would last ten years.

I have seen young men that could pay ten dollars for a "spruce" that would not pay one dollar for the *Prairie Farmer*.

I have seen a mother that called her child a "brat" in the cradle, and in two years the child called her a harder name.

I have seen farmers that would carry their produce fifty miles to market, when they could sell it at their own doors for the same price.

I have seen many farmers that would drink slough water and have the ague six months, when four days labour would dig a good well.

I have seen farmers' daughters that were "very accomplished" in everything except carding, spinning, weaving, knitting, churning, making cheese, cooking, &c.

## "MOTHER CHANGES HER MIND."

Perhaps in no way do mothers more effectually destroy their own influence with children and injure them, than from neglecting to practice decision. The following little fact will illustrate the pernicious influence of this course of conduct:

A little girl remarked, a short time since, that beaver hats were quite fashionable, and that she would have one. "Have you forgotten," said I, "that your mother, yesterday remarked, that the hat you wore last winter, is quite neat, and that she did not intend to encourage extravagance, and love of fashion in a little girl." "Ah well," replied she, "no matter for that—mother said that your Susan should not go to Miss W's party the other evening, because she was very much afraid there would be dancing there; but when sister cried out about it and made a fuss, mother consented to let her go, and bought her a new pair of shoes and a pretty blue scarf to wear. Besides, I am sure it is quite right to wish to have a fashionable hat to go to church in, and I'll tease mother to buy me one. And I know I shall get it—for mother often changes her mind."

## FRANKLIN'S WIFE.

On the repeal of "that mother of mischief," the stamp act, Dr Franklin, in 1776, sent over from London to his wife, who was then living in Philadelphia, a new dress, &c. In his letter he says:

"As the stamp act is at length repealed, I am willing you should have a new gown which you may suppose I did not send sooner, as I knew you would not like to be finer than your neighbours, unless in a gown of your own spinning. Had the trade between the two countries totally ceased, it was a comfort for me to recollect that I had once been clothed from head to foot in woolen and linen of my wife's manufacture; that I never was prouder of any dress in my life, and that she and her daughter might do it again, if necessary."

## FORGIVENESS.

The brave only know how to forgive; it is the most refined and generous pitch of virtue human nature can arrive at. Cowards have done good and kind actions—cowards have even fought, nay, sometimes conquered; but a coward never forgave: it is not his nature; the power of doing it flows only from a strength and greatness of soul conscious of its own force and security, and above all the little temptations of resenting every fruitless attempt to interrupt its happiness.

## NEWSPAPERS.

A newspaper is a school in a family, worth ten dollars a year. Even the most barren paper brings something new. Children read and hear the contents, gain intelligence of the affairs of the world, and acquire useful knowledge, of more importance to them in life than a present of fifty acres of land. Parents are not aware of the vast importance of a newspaper in a family of children. We have the remark before us, and we repeat it, that take two families of children equally smart, and both going to the same school—let one of them have the free use of a newspaper, and it would excite a contest to mark the difference between them. Full one half, and an important half of education, as it respects the business of the world, and the ability to rise and make one's self respectable in it, is derived from newspapers. What parent would not wish his children respectable? Who would be willing to have his neighbor's children more intelligent than his own? Yet how trifling is the sum a paper costs! It is even in these hard times absolutely contemptible in amount, and no man ever felt it, except in its beneficial consequences, who paid the subscription regularly once a year.