

and their information and skill are limited to the manual and more general operations of farming. And is this as it should be? Can the husbandman hope to reap the heaviest and most profitable crops while ignorant of vegetable physiology, the organization and habits of plants? Can he expect to obtain the most perfect animals, while he disregards the laws of breeding, and the comparative value and properties of different races? He will be successful just in proportion as he renders science and discoveries, which are the result of skillful observation, subservient to his pursuits; for just in that proportion does he compel nature to aid and complete his operations.

"There are few, if any other pursuits that, opens so wide a field for inquiry as agriculture. It is true, every boy of capacity, who is brought up on a farm, becomes sufficiently familiar with the usual farming operations to pursue the business in a way that enables him to get a living. But in most instances his operations are carried on with but very little inquiry as to the most correct and best principles of husbandry. He goes on this year as he went on last year, and as his father went for many years. Moving onward thus in his unvaried rounds from year to year, the industrious and prudent man may gain property and be a respected and useful citizen.—But his pursuits would be more interesting, and he would become a more intelligent man, were he to observe more closely the immediate and lasting action of each kind of manure that he applies; were he to note the effect of each kind of manure upon each different crop that he cultivates; were he to calculate the cost of each crop that he raises; were he to determine, by careful observation, the soil best suited to each crop; were he to consider the best time and manner of applying manure to each; were he to study how to make as much manure as possible; were he to learn whence his plants derive their principal nourishment, and in what state they take it up; were he to satisfy himself as to the parts of the farm which are too acid or too cold to be productive: were he to learn carefully what spots could be greatly improved by deep ploughing; were he to seek diligently to know what it would be best to do on each comparatively unproductive spot of the farm in order to make it fertile. Were he to be observing, studying, thinking, reasoning, and judging upon these matters, there can be no doubt, that without ever raising a line upon agriculture, or making experiments above what his usual routine affords, he would become a more intelligent and a more successful farmer.

[To be continued.]

PARENTAL DISCIPLINE.

"This regards the treatment of offences. 'For it must needs be that offences will come,' and what is to be done with them? Here are two extremes to be avoided. The one is severity. You are not to magnify trifles into serious evils; and instead of a cheerful countenance, to wear a gloom, and instead of commending, to be always finding fault; and instead of enlivening every thing around you like the weather in spring, to be a continued dropping in a rainy-winter-day. Instead of making home repulsive, let it possess every attraction, and abound with every indulgence and allowance the exclusions of Scripture do not forbid. Instead of making a child tremble and retreat, gain his confidence and love, and let him run into your arms. 'Fathers,' says the apostle, (for this fault lies mostly with your sex), 'Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, lest they be discouraged.'—The other is indulgence—a foolish fondness, or connivance at things actually wrong, or pregnate with evil. This often shows itself with regard to favorites. And here, ye mothers, let not your good be evil spoken of. Do not smother your darlings to death with kisses; and let not your tender bosom be an asylum for delinquents appealing from the deserved censures of the father. The success of such appeals, with kind

but weak minds, is very mischievous, it makes preferences where there should be an evenness of regard, and tends to check and discourage wholesome reproof; and 'he that sparreth the rod hateth his son, but he that loveth him chasteneth him belimes.' 'Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.' Here Eli failed: 'His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.'—Here also David erred; he had not displeased Adonijah at any time in saying, 'Why hast thou done so?' When the head of a family cannot prevent the introduction of improper books, the visits of infidel or profane companions, the indulgence of ensnaring usages and indecent discourse, the putting forth of pretensions above his rank, the incurring of expenses beyond his income;—does he bear rule in his own house?—Is it thus that he puts away evil from his own tabernacle? Is it thus that he blesses his household.

"For what is Abraham commended? 'I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the ways of the Lord, to do justice and judgment.' Not that he was a tyrant, and terrified his family with the blackness of his frown, or the roughness of his voice. We no more admire a despot in the house than in the state; but he was decided and firm, not only telling his servants and children what they were to perform, but requiring and enforcing obedience by the authority of his station.

"Always bear in mind that your children are immortal spirits, whom God hath for a time intrusted to your care, that you may train them up in all holiness, and fit them for the enjoyment of God in all eternity. This is a glorious and important trust; seeing one soul is of more value than all the world besides. Every child, therefore, you are to watch with the utmost care, that when you are called to give an account of each to the Father of spirits, you may give your account with joy and not with grief.

"Religious education should begin in the dawn of childhood. The earliest days, after intelligence is fairly formed in the mind, are incomparably the best for this purpose. The child should be taught as soon as he is capable of comprehending the instructions which are to be communicated. Nothing should be suffered to pre-occupy the place which is destined for truth.

"If the intellect is not filled with sound instruction, as fast as it is capable of receiving it, the enemy, who never neglects to sow tares when parents are asleep, will imperceptibly fill it with dangerous and noxious growth.

"The great truths of religion should be taught so early, that the mind should never remember when it began to learn, or when it was without this knowledge. Whenever it turns a retrospective view upon the preceding periods of its existence, these truths should always seem to have been in its possession; to have the character of innate principles, to have been interwoven in its nature, and to constitute a part of all its current thinking."

Agriculture.

LIME USED WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, AND ABUSED WITHOUT REASON.

(From the Farmer's Library and Monthly Jour. of Agri.)

There are few things about which practical farmers have more differed, or been more puzzled than about the efficacy and value of lime—some affirming it even to be worthless others regarding it as the great panacea for all the ills that afflict the husbandman. For much of that diversity of experience and opinion, Mr. Norton, of Yale College, the accomplished professor of Chemistry, as applied to Agriculture, thus briefly and readily accounts:—

"I would not for an instant be thought to undervalue practical experience; its results have been great and import-