

# MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER



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"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,  
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY  
RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

CONDUCTED BY D. T. MOORE,  
With a Corps of Able Assistants and Contributors.

CHAS. D. BRAGDON, Western Corresponding Editor.

THE RURAL NEW-YORKER is designed to be unsurpassed in Value, Purity and Variety of Contents, and unique and beautiful in Appearance. Its Conductor devotes his personal attention to the supervision of its various departments, and earnestly labors to render the RURAL an eminently Reliable Guide on all the important Practical, Scientific and other Subjects intimately connected with the business of those who interests it zealously advocates. As a FAMILY JOURNAL it is eminently Instructive and Entertaining—being so conducted that it can be safely taken to the Homes of people of intelligence, taste and discrimination. It embraces more Agricultural, Horticultural, Scientific, Educational, Literary and News Matter, interspersed with appropriate Engravings, than any other Journal, rendering it the most complete AGRICULTURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER in America.

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## Agricultural.

### HOT-WEATHER WORK.

ONE would like to know if it is necessary to the conscientious discharge of a farmer's duty, that he neglect all effort to make himself comfortable and cleanly—that he violate all the laws of health and good sense? It is health of body, mind and heart, that yields happiness—at least it is a condition of happiness. It is true a man may be happy if he is unclean; but he will certainly be happier if he is clean. In proportion as the senses are kept in good working order, in just such proportion is our perception of the relation and beauty and goodness of what we see and hear, feel and taste, intensified. A man may be happy if he is unclean—if he is in constant bodily pain—if he is blind, or deaf and dumb. There is the spiritual possibility that he may accept such condition as one of which he cannot rid himself, and make the best of it. But it does not follow that it is the normal condition of happiness.

Hot-weather work on the farm is exhausting at best. But if prosecuted, as it frequently is by the farmer, with a sort of infatuation that the world will stand still if he does not keep in a steam and stew from early morn until late at night, and keep his family and help in the same caustic condition, it is terrible in its effects upon the body, mind and heart. Added to this perpetual foam and fume is another idea that obtains among some farmers and their wives—that they have no time to "clean up" during the week. If a farmer shaves himself once a week, and puts on a clean shirt as often, it is all the cleanly care his body needs. And the wife, too, often neglects her person, and falls to garnish the tea-table with a pleasant smile, and brighten it with a cheerful, clean, cool muslin—such as she used to wear when she was a girl. Men are to blame for this state of things too often. They neglect their persons, and apparently fail to appreciate the efforts of their wives to have them "look decent."

It is a fact, within the knowledge of most men who have observed at all, that the thrifty farmer is almost invariably a tidy man, in his personal appearance. His wife is as "neat as wax-work." There is always a clean shirt at his disposal, and he needs no second invitation to put it on. He does not require urging; he knows the luxury of a bath, and clean, fragrant clothing. It is one of the enjoyments which pertain to his vocation. It helps him. He respects himself. Other people respect him. It is doubted if any man ever held his head quite as high in an unclean condition as when tidy. It should not be inferred that we would have any farmer neglect any farm duty because it soils his hands or his clothes. He should adapt himself to his work; his clothing should be suited to his business. But we do urge that health, comfort and self-respect demand a daily bath and a diurnal change of clothing. It is a consequence of hot-weather work. Work earlier in the morn, and a little later at night, and rest longer at mid-day, in hot weather.

Let there be some regard paid to your own health and comfort, and that of your family, these August days,—bearing especially in mind that, in the opinion of very many intelligent people, cleanliness is akin to godliness.

### FARMER GARRULOUS TALKS.

ECONOMY in farming, JOHN! Why, yes, sir! It is one of the most important features of a good husbandman's system. He should study the laws of economy quite as much as he does the laws of production. He should do it for the same reason that a military commander should study his enemy's position and force. I remember what NOAH NEVERFAIL told me once. You know NOAH was a great lawyer. He never lost a case. His name in connection with any case, was, what some of those editors would call, synonymous with success. His success was remarkable. One day I asked him the secret of his success. He hesitated a while, as if he doubted the propriety of telling me his professional secrets; but he finally said, "I'll tell you Farmer GARRULOUS. I study my opponent's case, I look diligently for his strong points, and in seeking them I discover his weak ones. I labor to master his position; I seek to become as familiar with it as he is himself. Thus is my own side of the question developed. I don't study it at all, except incidentally. By this course I am made as strong as my opponent, at least—yes, stronger. I occupy his position and turn his batteries against him. I know what his weapons are, how he will, or should attack me; and I am prepared to defend myself or take an advantage of any neglect or oversight on his part. That is the way I win."

Now, JOHN, that is the way we should study economy. It is comparatively easy to produce; but how to save and use to the best advantage what we produce, is the question. Waste is our enemy. Neglect is the client of waste. We must learn where to look for the operative forces of both Waste and Neglect. We cannot learn to save until we see *what and how we waste*. We learn a positive fact by contrasting it with a negative one. Our knowledge of things is a comparative one. We estimate the degree of light by contrasting it with darkness. We know what we can do when we reach the point where what we cannot do commences. So about economy—it has got to be studied. And, JOHN, a man may be economical and not parsimonious—a man need not grow mean because he grows economical. On the contrary, it will increase his ability to be generous, liberate, benevolent. It does not necessarily narrow his mind or his comprehension of public duty. But it furnishes an aid and stimulant to enlarge the sphere of his operations.

But I see that the weeds are getting high in that potato patch. How they do grow! See, there are fifty large fellows almost ready for seed. I wish you would pull them up and throw them to the pigs. It is economy to do it. It saves the labor next year; it feeds the pigs; it cleans the field, and it is as essential now as it was six weeks ago. It is a mistake that some people make when they let weeds alone in mid-summer. It is the time to save money and labor by pulling or digging them up.

### DELIVER US FROM FIGURES.

MR. BRAGDON, Western Editor, who always tells us precisely what we want to know, in a very agreeable, if not always a very concise manner, "goes in" very emphatically for "figures." He recommends the keeping of "farm accounts," and commends the practice of a Western farmer who keeps Dr. and Cr. with each particular "working horse, ox, mule, man or woman on the farm." Garden, fields, crops and cows, are all brought to the test of the "double entry."

By way of illustrating the advantages of this system, Mr. B. shows from the books aforesaid the cost, per acre, of raising corn. Here we have it:—"It would require just 37½ days' work to 'lay by' (including preparation, planting and cutting) fifty acres of corn—or seventy-five days' work to 'lay by' one hundred acres."

Now, Illinois is a marvelous State, and the people can doubtless figure and work in a marvelous way, but such ciphering must be a curiosity to "the rest of mankind." To "lay by" an acre of corn we are told includes "preparation" of the ground, "planting" and "cutting." I am not sure that "cutting" includes, as it does with us, putting the corn into stooks and binding the tops, but I am sure it would be very absurd to "lay by" a field of corn without that precaution. Now it is considered a fair day's work to cut and put up an acre of New York corn in a day; but Western men do the plowing, dragging, planting, hoeing and cutting for an acre of corn in three-

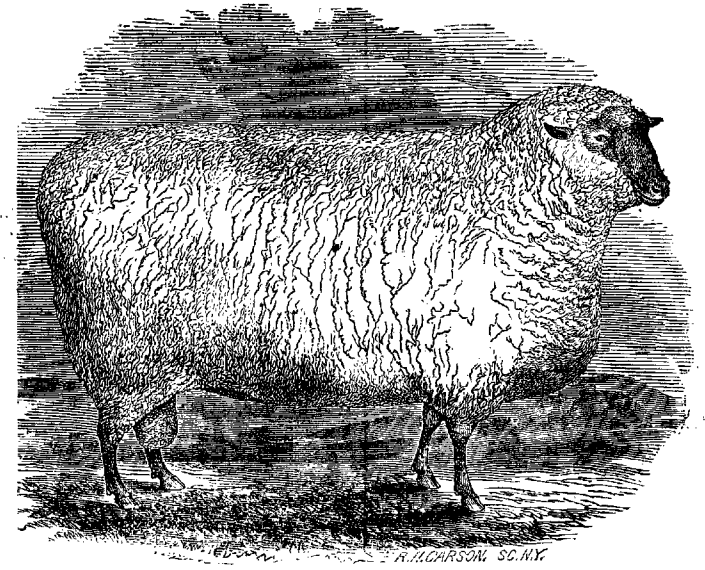
fourths of a day! I would like to inquire whether that sort of men were born west or merely "moved" there, and if the latter, whether their children will be as much smarter than they as they are smarter than New-Yorkers?

I will venture the suggestion, and Mr. BRAGDON's friend may enter it in his books if he thinks best, that the West will rue the day when it was deemed advisable to raise crops with little labor. If the ground is free from weeds, I would spare no pains to keep it so; better go half a mile to pull one weed than let it go to seed and become the great grand-parent of a million. I most wish I had said better go six miles.

As to keeping accounts, it is all proper "in its place." If you sell a man anything and he don't pay you, charge it to him in black and white. I don't know about Mr. B.'s "double entry." Down here if you charge a fellow the same thing twice over, it is considered dishonest; I am clear that once will do. But this keeping accounts with every horse, and cow, and pig, and field, and crop, won't do for the majority of mankind. Shrewd, practical men are not so very dependent on "ledgers." They judge without a book whether a horse or ox has a good working capacity; they soon see whether a cow fills the pail and the firkin as fast as she ought to, and they have a knack of guessing whether a crop pays, their pockets serving as a general index, and they very readily "calculate" which crop paid them best. As to the future, it is all guess work, and can't be anything else. The crop that does best this year may do worst next year, and the man that figures will probably be as wide of the mark as the man that don't. In fact I have noticed that "journal-keeping" farmers, who are always ready with a column of figures and a demonstration, are just the ones that don't succeed. The reason is, that success mainly depends upon carrying out the programme, and that depends upon "dry knocks."

The course of farming in any section is determined by "general consent," and in accordance with first principles. It soon becomes known what crops are suited to a particular section—the man without a journal is just as sure as the man that keeps one, that cotton and rice won't flourish in Vermont, nor Merino sheep in Louisiana. Go through the country, and the man without books can tell you what to plant and sow just as well as those who put everything down in their journals and ledgers. I will guarantee that the two classes will adopt essentially the same system of farming—but the man without books will generally have more physical energy, and, very likely, excelling in efficiency, will excel in thoroughness of execution and general results.

Close habits of observation are indispensable to success, except as one now and then blunders into it. Whoever falls to connect cause and effect, and scan with a critical eye agencies and results, is utterly unfit for any business except a tread-mill, or a similar routine; but there is as much philosophy among "uneducated men," falsely so called, as among collegiates. The farmer who makes his way a hundred miles into the wilderness, working by turns at all the trades, extemporizing most of his machinery, and making all ends meet, looks out in his old age upon his well-tilled and well-appointed farm, having begun with nothing, is an LL.D. by a higher authority than Yale or Harvard! Such a man has neither time nor disposition to record every three-cent operation that he engages in, but what is better, he is guided by a sound discretion, which, in small matters and in large, saves him from unfruitful outlays and unwise endeavors. His judgment, though less formal and methodical than the collegiates, is more acute and reliable, for having less confidence in philosophical speculations, he keeps a sharper look-out for the exceptions that play such havoc with general rules, and the deductions based upon them. His mental processes are in harmony with nature. He always "takes the direct route," and so escapes the bewilderingments of a more formal and circuitous logic. His life experience—his education—has been a constant exercise of his perceptive and reflective faculties. He has been on a "committee of ways and means" all his life. He has been watching cause and effect since he sowed his first seed and reaped his first harvest. He has grappled with obstacles till he has attained a force of character that overcomes opposition, and carries him boldly into the more recondite departments of religion, politics and morals. Above all, he is superior to other men in the freer play which has been accorded to his instincts and intuitions, faculties sadly dwarfed by



SOUTH DOWN RAM, "ARCHBISHOP."

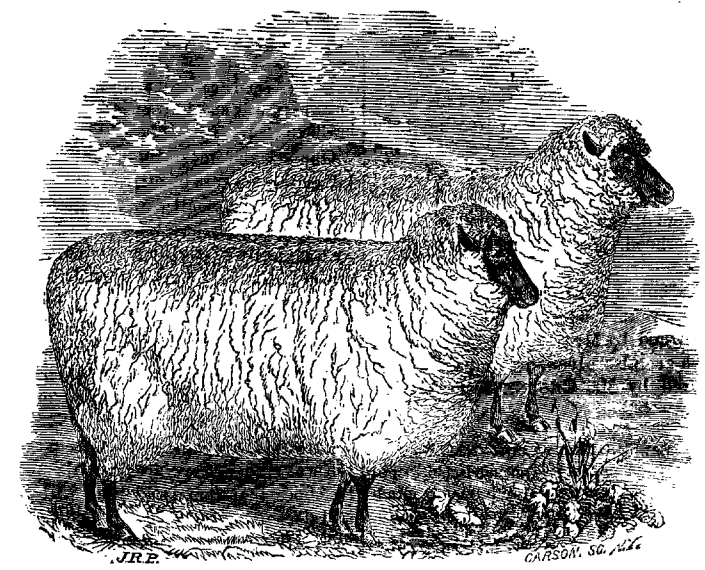
the conventionalities and formulas of society and science.

Thus caparisoned, the farmer, without going through an elaborate calculation, and with very little recorded data, sums up successfully the results of his labors, and decides judiciously upon the varied business of the farm. Here, too, we find the explanation of the wonderful powers, and the marked success, of "self-made" and "uneducated men," who from time to time have surprised the world as generals, jurists, legislators, orators, and ornaments of society. They were educated, and in the highest schools of science and philosophy—with grammar and some of the gases left out.—H. T. B.

### SOUTH DOWN SHEEP.

[THE following brief but interesting account of the South Down breed of Sheep is copied from advance sheets of Dr. RANDALL'S new work entitled *The Practical Shepherd*, now in course of publication. The fine engravings represent animals belonging to the well-known flock of Mr. SAMUEL THORNE, of Dutchess Co., New York.]

The principal Short-Wooled British families of Sheep which have been introduced in any considerable numbers into the United States since the period of the early settlement of the country, are the South Downs, the Hampshire Downs, the Shropshire Downs and the Oxfordshire Downs. I include the last under this designation only because they are classed among the Downs,—for those introduced into the United States are really a middle if not almost a long-wooled sheep.



MR. THORNE'S SOUTH DOWN EWES.

THE SOUTH DOWNS.—Professor WILSON thus describes the South Downs:—"The South Downs of the present day present probably as marked an improvement upon the original breed as that exhibited by the Leicester or any other breed. To the late Mr. ELLMAN, of Glynde, they are indebted for the high estimation in which they are now generally held. When he commenced his experiments in breeding he found the sheep of small size and far from possessing good points; being long and thin in the neck; narrow in the fore quarters; high on the shoulders; low behind, yet high on the loins; sharp on the back;

the ribs flat, drooping behind, with the tail set very low; good in the leg, though somewhat coarse in the bone. By a careful and unremitting attention during a series of years to the defective points in the animal, and a judicious selection of his breeding flock, his progressive improvements were at length acknowledged far and wide; and he closed an useful and honorable career of some fifty years with the satisfactory conviction that he had obtained for his favorite breed a reputation and character which would secure them a place as the first of our short-wooled sheep.

"The South Down sheep of the present day are without horns, and with dark brown faces and legs; the size and weight have been increased; the fore quarters improved in width and depth; the back and loins have become broader and the ribs more curved, so as to form a straight and level back; the hind quarters are square and full, the tail well set on, and the limbs shorter and finer in the bone. These results are due to the great and constant care which has been bestowed on the breed by ELLMAN and his contemporaries, as well as by his successors, whose flocks fully sustain the character of the improved breed.

"The sheep, though fine in form and symmetrical in appearance, are very hardy, keeping up their condition on moderate pastures, and readily adapting themselves to the different districts and systems of farming in which they are now met with. They are very docile, and thrive well, even when folded on the artificial pastures of an arable farm. Their disposition to fatten enables them to be brought into the market at twelve and fifteen months old, when they average 80

lbs. weight each. At two years old they will weigh from 100 to 120 lbs. each. The meat is of fine quality and always commands the highest price in the market. The ewes are very prolific, and are excellent mothers, commonly rearing 120 to 130 lambs to the 100 ewes. The fleece, which closely covers the body, produces the most valuable of our native wools. It is short in the staple, fine and curling, with spiral ends, and is used for carding purposes generally."

Mr. JONAS WEBB, of Babraham, Cambridge-shire, was the most successful follower of ELL-

*Journal of the Royal Ag. Society, vol. 16, p. 223.*













