

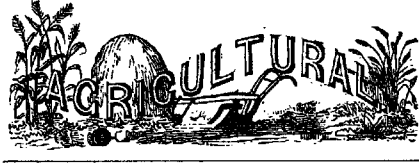
MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER



(TWO DOLLARS A YEAR.)
"PROGRESS AND IMPROVEMENT."
(SINGLE NO. FIVE CENTS.)

VOL. XV NO. 2.}
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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
AN ORIGINAL WEEKLY
RURAL, LITERARY AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.
CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,
With a Corps of Able Assistants and Contributors.
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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 whose 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.
For Terms and other particulars, see last page.



"A LAZY MAN'S SHOVEL."

DID you ever see one? It was pointed out to me by one of that class who spurn everything from them that saves strength. It was in the barn of one of your paper-taking and reading farmers—one of the real genuine book-farmers, of whom we should be proud—a man who not only reads, but actually thinks for himself—who analyzes your article and mine, reader, and selects the practical truths for his use, if they can be profitably applied in his practice.
Well, this shovel stood there in the stable, and I said, taking hold of it, "this is a good shovel—the right one for a farmer's barn."
"It's a shovel for a lazy man," said JOB JAWBREAKER—a man who prides himself on doing more hard work than any man in town, and who certainly gets less pay for it than men who depend less upon the exercise of their muscle, and more upon their brains. I know the class of RURAL readers who attend fairs, visit Agricultural warehouses in large centers, and make it a point to visit and talk with the best farmers they can hear of, will not need to be told that there is economy of time, of money, of labor, and of life, in the use of a long-handled shovel—shovel, with a handle as long as an ordinary pitch-fork handle. But there is a large class of men left in the world—I don't know why—who believe they have a great deal more knowledge now than they can use to advantage, who do not know that there ever was a long-handled shovel made—and who, if they were to see one, as JOB J. did—would insist that the sight of it on a farm is a token of indolence.
It is not often that we see a farmer who has lived and labored twenty years on a farm, who is not more or less bowed, bent, or broken down by labor, and the unnatural positions in which he has wrought because he has not worked with suitable tools.
If he plows, he manages to ride the handles of the plow, his body bent forward at nearly a right angle. He does not walk up close between the handles, stand straight, and simply exert himself to guide and steady the plow—diminishing the labor to himself and the team too. I've seen some men plow who seemed to be pushing the plow into the ground. If the plow is worth using, and the team is properly attached, there should be no such ground and lofty tumbling, even among the rocks and stones of some of the States, as may be seen practiced by plowmen in almost every neighborhood.
Then, again, how many farmers can you count of your acquaintance that stand straight when they hoe corn? Most men's bodies are at right angles to their legs, and the support of the body is divided between the muscles of the legs and those of the arms. But these doubled-up hoesmen are not the men who accomplish most in a

day. They are not the men who live longest and prosper most. They are not, as a rule, the thinking men. And but a few years go by before one would suppose their round shoulders and distorted bodies to have been so normally.
And now, to come back to the "lazy man's shovel." Here is a chance to try it in this cow stable, a hundred feet long. The manure is to be put through those windows. Take this short-handled shovel and throw out the manure for twenty feet. You will the better appreciate the difference. You stoop for every shovel-full. If you are a right-handed shoveler, your right hand is bespattered with manure as you fill the shovel. Then if you throw it clear of the window, you have got to learn the knack of jerking it. And if you have labored all your life at this disadvantage, you will find your back aches when you shall have got the first twenty feet cleaned. You will lay your hand around on it and straighten up painfully.
Now take the "lazy man's shovel." Stand straight! Take a single step toward the window, and swing the load of excrement clean through it, ten feet. How easy it was done, wasn't it! No, sir, do not stoop now to load your shovel again; stand straight up, like a good, conscientious man, as you are; fill the shovel and discharge it without incurring the back-ache. How easy you breathe, standing upright! Don't you find it better? Your shoulders work in their place—in their proper relation to the rest of the body. You accomplish more in the same time. And I notice that the boys do not have to keep an old ax stored in the stable with which to cut away the frozen manure from the window in the morning, in order that they may clean the stable. It is a good thing—this "lazy man's shovel!"

THE WILLOW SWAMPS.

THE past year has witnessed a wonderful clearing up of the willow swamps of the country. East and West this work of tidying up uncouth, low, swampy places, to the extent of cutting the willows, has been prosecuted. And it has been discovered that it pays to do this thing—that these willows have a commercial value. Willows, white, black and yellow,—willows, two-colored, woolly-headed and leaden-flowered,—willows, Pameachy, Bedford and Babylonian, Frost, Basket and Crack, Sage, Herb and Dubious, Beaked, Stiff-leaved and Heart-leaved, Pursh's, Toney's and Muhlenberg's—willows, it mattered little what their name and character, were wanted to supply the demand existing for them on the prairies. Every township has been canvassed. Every farmer has been visited. Everybody has bought willows—and strange to say, by some spiritual process, some miracle akin to that which turned water into wine in the Cana of the Scriptures, no one has purchased anything but the *White Willow—Salix alba!* The swamps of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, have contributed to supply this demand. In Ohio, one honest-faced farmer was found vigorously cutting up his old willow swamp, and was asked what he was doing that for. "Why, you see they are doing a big thing in willows out in Illinois and Iowa, and are running short of a supply. So they have bought mine. I didn't know this was the White Willow till a dealer told me so. I never thought it would make a fence; but he says 'twill, and ef I don't sell all out clean, I shall stick in a few cuttings and try it. But I tell you they are swallowing the willow out West, good."
And the last assertion is true. It is currently rumored that the man who furnished the money by which the enterprise of one of our contemporaries was so remarkably developed, made seventy-five thousand dollars, clean cash, out of the credulity of the sharp farmers of the Western States. And it is more than rumored—it is asserted—that some of the Western Nurserymen made all the money they could from willows which cost them nothing but the cutting and stripping from the swamps lying near some of the inland lakes and streams.
It is proper to ask our readers to hold on to their money awhile before they invest in willows the coming season. Smooth-tongued, soft-voiced, garrulous chaps, with innocent eyes, will call upon you with a big willow club, showing the enormous growth in a year or two, or a piece of willow plank from one of OVERMAN'S steam sawmills, or a miniature hedge on paper and an editorial copied from the Anti-humbug—unprecedented—enterprise—five—ca—pacious—

editors—Agriculturist. And these fellows will very likely tell you that opposition to this willow comes from men who have never visited nor seen the wonderful willow fences, and who have never received any of P—'s money, because they never had a chance! Do not believe them in any one of these particulars, for it is not true!
If you want the White Willow there are ninety-nine chances you will get something else, to one that you will get what you want.
Yours, faithfully and sincerely!—C. D. B.

MAKING AND FILLING ICE-HOUSES.

THE Register of Rural Affairs for 1864—a work heretofore strongly commended in the RURAL—gives the following article on Ice-Houses in its "Work for January."



FIG. 1—Rough or Shanty Ice-House, left open under the eaves for ventilation.

Cheap ones may be quickly constructed, in the form of strong board shanties, (fig. 1,) with a good but not tight floor. Place a few inches of sawdust on the floor, pile up the ice compactly in square blocks, leaving a space of eight to twelve inches all around, next to the boards, to be filled with sawdust, trodden in, as the structure of ice is built upwards. Cover the whole with eight or ten inches of sawdust, and let plenty of fresh air blow through the shanty over the top. Ice will keep in this way as well as in the most costly and elaborate building. Chaff or finely cut straw may be substituted for the sawdust; but being less perfect non-conductors, should be in thicker layers.

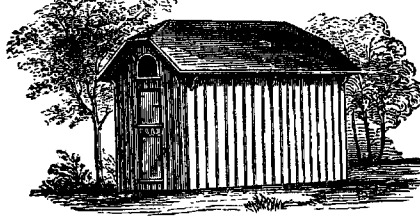


FIG. 2—Ice-House, above Ground. One door is enough for common-sized houses.

Ice-houses built of boards, with double walls, (fig. 2,) filled in with sawdust, although they do not keep ice better than those just described, save some labor by obviating the removal of the sawdust every time they are filled with ice. But even these should have a thin stratum of sawdust, say three or four inches, between the walls and the ice, which should be filled in and pressed hard as each layer is laid.

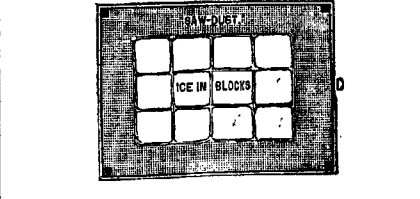


FIG. 3—Plan of Single Wall or Board Ice-House.

The accompanying plans and views show the construction of these buildings. It will be seen in the view of the double-walled house, that a large ventilating window is placed in each end at the top; these windows should always be open. There are two double doors at one end in large building, and one in small one—these are

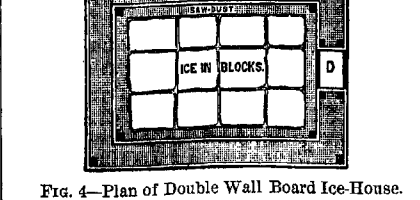


FIG. 4—Plan of Double Wall Board Ice-House.

for filling and taking the ice out at different heights. Care should be taken that all the sawdust be pressed solid, and no cavities left. An ice-house with one apartment, eight by ten feet, and six feet high, (including a foot of sawdust all around,) will keep ice enough for a moderate family.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

EDITED BY HENRY S. RANDALL, LL. D.

THE Editor of this Department is absent in Ohio, having been appointed to deliver the Address before the Ohio Wool Growers' Convention, January 6th.

QUESTIONS BY CORRESPONDENTS.

WE shall always be happy to answer questions in regard to the practical management of sheep, their diseases, etc., so far as our knowledge extends; and when not prepared to express an opinion in any given case, we will, if it seems sufficiently important, lay the facts before our readers in the hope of eliciting the requisite information from some of them. This offer, however, extends only to interrogatories based on actual facts or affecting practical interests.

Those questions are best understood, and generally most accurately describe the facts, which employ those common descriptive terms which farmers use in talking with each other. And in putting inquiries to elicit information, it is better carefully to state the actual facts, than the conclusions based on them. This is especially true in describing diseases. Thus, let the minute symptoms of fever be described, if they appear, rather than say the animal exhibited fever. The reason for this is, that every person does not distinctly understand what the symptoms of fever are, and by giving his unsupported opinion on the subject, he may present a wholly erroneous view of the case. And even if right in the general fact that fever exists, there may be collateral febrile symptoms which, if known, would essentially modify the aspect, or determine the precise character of that fever. We hope to be able at no distant day to give a list of the principal symptoms to be made the subjects of observation and description in case of disease. With the closest and most reliable description of facts, it is often impossible to identify obscure maladies; and the most familiar ones can not be prescribed for with confidence on a partial representation of the symptoms.

DOG TAXES.

WE understand that in some counties or parts of counties of New York, the dog tax has already ceased to be enforced. In three or four counties the levying of this tax and the disbursing of its proceeds were, by an express provision of the law, turned over to the town officers. In other counties the Supervisors have, without any legal authority that we know of, in like manner put the dog tax of each town under the direction of the town boards—intending to make each town separately defray the damages for the sheep killed by dogs in it, provided the owners of the dogs can not be discovered or the damages collected from them. There would not be much practical objection to this, as between rural towns, if the law was thus enforced. But suppose one town in a county is covered by a city which swarms with dogs, while there is not a sheep in it outside of its market pens. If city curs sally out into the adjacent country to kill sheep, ought not the city to help pay for those sheep. But when the execution of the law is left to towns, it is not enforced. We know of instances already where town officers have omitted to levy the taxes thus left to their direction. The reason for the omission was, that no sheep, or but a small number, had been killed in the town the preceding year, and that the avails of the preceding year tax were still on hand to defray future damages until it should become necessary to raise another tax.

But this course, besides being unlawful, defeats one of the prime objects of taxing dogs, viz., the diminution of the dog nuisance. And an intolerable nuisance it is. The worthless and mischievous curs which infest our country consume and destroy far more than enough in value to support the poor of the country. JOHN H. KLIPPART, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture in Ohio, has published statistics, in which he estimates the value of the food (which could otherwise be fed to hogs, poultry, &c.) annually consumed by dogs

in that State to be worth three and a half millions of dollars—which he states is more than three-fourths the total amount of State taxes for the years 1861, or 1862, and just the amount of those taxes for 1860. And he states that besides this, dogs killed sheep in that State from 1855 to 1862 inclusive, to the value of \$508,043, or on the average \$101,608 per annum. There are no reasons, that we are aware of, for believing the cur nuisance more prevalent in Ohio than in other States. If the annual losses by it in New York, or any other State, were carefully ascertained, the result would probably strike us with equal astonishment—an astonishment bordering on incredulity.

Let every State make laws calculated to repress this evil, and make them too stringent to be evaded. We trust Senator CORNELL, of New York, will mature and procure the passage of an amendment to the dog laws of New York, which will prevent their evasion in future.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY IN NEW YORK.

[To the serious part of the following letter from the former editor of The Wool Grower and Stock Register we call the attention of the Hon. GEORGE GEDDES, and request him to reply to it.—Ed.]

DEAR DOCTOR—I am glad you have finally got into a position where you cannot help but be useful. You have done a great many kinds of work in your day, but I will venture something that editing the wool or sheep department in such a paper as the RURAL NEW-YORKER, is different from anything you ever attempted before. I think I have had a little experience in that line!

But I am glad your "list is in" for another reason. I am quite anxious to throw stones at you, and could not do it very well while you were only a common man like the most of us, and allowed our children to swing on your gate, or play on your front door-steps, and kept out of sight. But now you are in the street, and cannot object if we occasionally shie a "rock" at you.
Our mutual friend "CEDRIC the Saxon," when I cross my legs under his mahogany, in my annual pilgrimage to his model home, comes down on me for my notions about sheep. Of course we do not agree. For while I am one of the most yielding men in the world, as you know, he is quite as positive, and we generally leave off mutually satisfied with our own opinions, though each agrees that the other has some good points in his arguments.

One point of our disagreement is on the relative merits of coarse and fine-wooled sheep in the general farm management of this State; and that is one of the rocks that I have aimed at you. It is more profitable for the farmers in this State to grow sheep for mutton than for wool. There's my glove, and I expect you to take it up. I know you and "CEDRIC" consider this rank heresy. But I am prepared to break a lance, or wear out a very poor pen in defense of that proposition. Outside of the grain growing region, which is about 19 per cent. of the improved lands of the State, it is not profitable to grow sheep at all, unless to sell fat to the butchers, either as lambs or older sheep. And an analysis of the State with reference to its agricultural capacity, and grouping the several counties accordingly, will show that, except in particular locations, to grow sheep for wool would be one of the least profitable employments the farmer could adopt.

I send you a map of the State, showing you the manner of grouping the several counties, which I have adopted in preparing a general report of the Agricultural Condition of the State, with the present valuation of the real estate and future prospects of increase in such valuations, together with the population and wealth of each group, and the reasons therefor. I think the grouping will bring out some facts in regard to our agriculture that are interesting, though to make a report as full and exhaustive as I could wish, is a work which requires more time and statistics than I can at present command.

Perhaps I should qualify my proposition by saying that growing sheep for wool is not the most profitable branch of farming that the farmer could adopt over most parts of this State in the present condition of its agriculture.
I am fully aware of the odds against me, and that I am assailing a very strong fortification, as a sort of forlorn hope. But if beaten, it will not be the first time, so say your say.
Kindly yours,
T. C. PETERS.
Darien, Dec. 27, 1863.

THE OLD YEAR OF THE NATION.

BY HARRIET M'EWEN KIMBALL.

1863.

CLOSED is the book whose crimson-lettered pages Are blurred and blotted by a Nation's grief; Sealed up with all the ponderous tomes of ages By Him who turned for us its darkest leaf.

The Story-Teller.

MRS. FORSTER'S BOARDERS.

BY EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER.

[Continued from page 12, last number.] Miss WOODS spent most of her time in her room, talking and reading to WILL DAYTON, and petting him like a sick baby; but as we came to know her, every inmate of the house was attracted toward her and her helpless charge.

to, but I may as well tell you now, that I have worn Uncle SAM's blue cloth, and tramped over the worst half of Kentucky and Tennessee in his service." He sat there for an hour, patiently answering our questions, and relating little incidents to please WILL, but it was plain he would never voluntarily have introduced the subject.

restraint. She met Mrs. FORSTER's complaints with her unvarying smile, and declared she was perfectly willing she should punish the boys if she chose, but for her part she did not like to undertake what she knew she never could accomplish.

DEAFNESS, CATARRH, AND DISEASES OF THE EYE, EAR, AND THROAT. DR. C. B. LIGHTHILL. Authors of "A Popular Treatise on Deafness," "Letters on Catarrh," &c., &c., can be consulted on DEAFNESS, CATARRH, DISCHARGES FROM THE EAR, NOISES IN THE HEAD, and all the various acute or chronic diseases of the EYE, EAR, and THROAT, requiring medical or surgical aid, at their office, No. 34 St. Marks-place, New York.

BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES. These Lozenges are prepared from a highly esteemed recipe for alleviating BRONCHIAL AFFECTIONS, ASTHMA, HOARSENESS, COUGHS, COLDS, and Irritation or Soreness of the Throat. PUBLIC SPEAKERS AND VOCALISTS Will find them beneficial in clearing the voice before speaking or singing, and relieving the throat after any unusual exertion of the vocal organs, having a peculiar adaptation to affections which disturb the organs of speech.



UNIVERSAL Clothes Wringer. It was pronounced superior to all others at the World's Fair, in London, 1862. It took the FIRST PRIZE at the great Fair of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE, New York City, 1863, where the judges were practical mechanics, and appreciated COG-WHEELS.

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker. GEOGRAPHICAL ENIGMA. I AM composed of 35 letters. My 6, 27, 12, 15 is a river in Europe. My 15, 8, 17, 26 is a cape in North America.

CHARADES OF COUNTIES.

A VOWEL and to rove at large. A domestic fowl and two-thirds of a grain. A vowel and a small insect. A consonant, a vowel and a nobleman.

MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

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