The surface of the land exposed to the fierce effects of the summer sun must of necessity dry up the moisture quickly, and the atmosphere, charged with so much moisture, must give it back to the earth as quickly, and hence the ravages of our storms in late years. And here comes in the admonition to young farmers, begin to put out forest trees and keep putting them out. There are plenty of trees which will do well in Wisconsin, and which in time will pay a good dividend. The walnuts, the ash, the hard maple for profit, the elm for beauty. The time will come, and is now, when a grove of black walnuts will pay more than anything on the farm. I knew of a black walnut in New Jersey which was sold ten years ago for $196 to be used in finishing a house. So that the money question comes in as well as your safety. The Legislature ought to be appealed to to begin the good work.

One other matter, what relation are you going to bear to the public? As a matter of course you will belong to some party. What part will you take in that party? Will you lead, will you follow? Will you obey the commands of the machine or will you with your fellow farmers issue the commands and have the machine do your bidding? It makes all the difference in the world from which end of the party the commands come. When the people issue the commands it is because of some high, moral purpose; a loyal demand that the government shall be carried on for the good of the people. When the machine governs, it is for the benefit of the machine, for the hoodlum. Young men, you and your fellows ought to govern, and you can if you will. To do this, activity in the caucus, activity in politics in general, intelligence, being posted in matters of state and the general government. A high moral purpose are what you need. The tendency of the farm is to keep you isolated, but you must not allow it. No voice can be heard farther than the voice of the farmer when he tries, only let his voice be uttered with an honest purpose, intelligent good sense, and a determination to be heard.

I wanted to say something about the household, your own household, about the sunshine that you, and that girl of yours should bring into it. You may have a thirty days, a honey moon of sunshine if you will, or you may have a lifetime of sunshine. I cannot go into this now. Only in regard to getting a girl, I would give you the same advice which a crazy woman in the New York asylum used to give. She would walk to and fro always preaching this sermon. "That every man should go and hang himself, and that right speedily, and prove it too, by the Bible in his hands." She would turn to one passage and read "And Judas went out and hanged himself," then turn to another and read "go thou and do likewise," and then to a third, "what thou doest do quickly." I don't want you to hang yourselves though some folks do say that getting married is like it. But get you a girl, honest, simple, with good sense, not afraid of saving, who will give you her love for like traits in you, go you and do this; and do it quickly. Are these hints worth your thoughts, young men? If so think of them, weigh them, and make up your minds whether they are worth carrying out into practice. Quite a sharp Yankee batchelor, very bashful, made up his mind that it was time for him to get married, but how should he address a girl. He knew the one he wanted, but one look of her eyes made him choke over every word he wanted to say. Again and again the poor bashful, blundering fellow determined to speak and know the worst, till one day walking by her side, he saw a man tying a horse to a hitching post. The inspiration came. "Sally, let's hitch." If these few ideas of mine are in harmony with yours, young man, "let's hitch" and try and make farming such a success that we may be proud of it.

Clover.

[D. G. Cheever, Clinton.]

In my short talk about clover I shall confine myself mainly to the one leading variety "Red Clover," and let others look after the other eighty eight varieties. In doing this I will condense my thoughts in the good old orthodox way under three heads, mainly: How to grow it, how to harvest, how to use. To get the best possible result in growth it should be sown early in a rich mellow seed bed. As it is a biennial plant with perennial qualities a year's time is saved by sowing it with any of the cereal crops. Clover lands intended for meadows should not be fed in the spring, as it seldom regains its full vigor during the after part of the season; neither should they be fed or mowed
very late in the fall, as it is then liable to winter kill for want of mulch-like protection. About twelve pounds of seed evenly distributed with some good grass seed is sufficient seeding for most soils. In our latitude to grow the seed successfully, the first or hay crop should be cut about the 20th of June. A warm autumn, and not too wet, is the best for getting a good seed crop. Let the seed crop lie in the field if practicable until ready to haul and then haul direct to the machine. Never try to thresh it when at all damp as you will not get near all of your seed. Plaster or gypsum as a top dressing in the month of May is of great value in securing an abundant crop often increasing the yield by one-third. Clover grown on rich land and in a dry season is much more nutritious than that grown on poor land or in a wet season. Low and wet or light sandy soils give the poorest results in clover culture. A generous top dressing immediately after cutting the first crop will give large returns when the second crop is ready for the mower.

Clover to be the most valuable for forage should be cut when its most valuable constituents as sugar, starch, albumen, etc., are in the greatest abundance in the stalks and leaves, and in the highest perfection which is at the time of flowering for as soon as it has gone to seed the woody matter predominates which is insoluble and largely indigestible.

Clover should never be cut when wet either from dew or rain, it should be exposed to the sun only enough to thoroughly wilt it, after which it should be formed into small cocks and thus sufficiently cured to place in the barn, or stack. In this way the tender and succulent leaves and blossoms are secured in a form most nearly resembling the green plant. In catching weather hay caps made of good firm cotton cloth can be used to great advantage, and many times will more than pay their cost in one season.

Clover and other grasses thus cut and thoroughly wilted can be put in a close or tight barn with much less drying than most people imagine, and the rich flavor aroma and nutriment retained. In handling clover when green the less compression the better as the succulent stalks are easily broken and the sap rapidly exudes, taking with it much of these valuable properties.

In speaking of the harvesting of clover I have purposely left out the silo, leaving its merits to be discussed by more familiar pens.

In speaking of the uses of this invaluable plant we will first call attention to its value as a fertilizer. Few plants gather more nourishment from the atmosphere, or subsoil deeper into the earth for plant food, and when flowed into the land and decomposed augments the carbon of the soil and gives it greater capacity to absorb heat and retain the valuable properties of manure as well as furnish plant food of itself.

Used as a fertilizer we are told it makes land to become “clover sick” which under some circumstances is undoubtedly true, but do not lands become wheat sick, barley sick, potato sick and sick generally; this condition of things only exists in the absence of a proper succession of crops and the necessary element of fertility. A well rotted thoroughly pulverized clover sod makes a seed bed that any farm crop takes delight in feasting upon.

As a forage plant whether in the pasture, the meadow, thesoiling manger, the hay mow or the silo, clover has few equals and perhaps no superior. Plenty of good clover means fat cattle, horses, sheep and hogs. Its great yielding capacities under favorable circumstances, and its rich and abundant and nourishing and fattening qualities place it in the front ranks and makes it king of the grasses. For the purposes of nourishment it is a perfect food of itself. As an accessory food in fattening animals it has perhaps no superior.

An acre of good clover will, when used as a pasture for hogs, make from six to eight hundred pounds of pork between the 15th of May and the 1st of October, or it will pasture a cow or a horse. An acre in meadow properly managed will furnish forage to winter two cows or a pair of horses provided the usual amount of grain is supplied. Brother farmers there is great profit in raising clover. Try it.

The Guernsey a Dairy Cow.

[By I. J. Clapp, Kenosha.]

The subject assigned me, "The Guernsey a Dairy Cow," is one I feel a deep interest in; having been identified with this breed of cattle since 1881,