The decomposition of these long roots tends to enrich as well as to lighten the soil as deep as they penetrate. In these times of low prices and sharp competition, with a soil somewhat exhausted by continuous cropping with wheat, it is not easy for the farmer to decide what crops to plant. Insect enemies in the wheat and corn; cholera among the swine, and pleura-pneumonia among cattle, and glanders among horses. To arrest these scourges of our agricultural interest, the man of science has combined with the lawman; the first to discover a remedy, the last to enforce it.

Let us as intelligent men and women avail ourselves of these better ways. Better breeds of stock, better understanding of the laws of natural increase. Better ways of curing and saving feed; better ways of manufacturing dairy products, and become a wiser, better and nobler race of men.

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Young Sheep the Most Profitable.
[From Good Farming.]

It has been alleged that a sheep aged two years yields a greater or heavier quantity of flesh than a sheep one year old. But this is fallacy. It is now ascertained that a sheep from its birth till it is one year old makes as much flesh as one double that age, provided the young sheep be fed plentifully, carefully and methodically; that is to say that there be no starvation or short common stoppages in the rations. Now it is a law of physiological growth that the time lost by insufficient feeding or the absence of sanitary care in the development of animals can never be recovered. In the first year of its growth, the assimilation of food is thus lost in the system; all is supplied to build up, nothing is demanded in repairs. At one year old the period of development in a measure terminates, and henceforward the animal has not only to feed to keep up life, but to repair the daily waste of tissues. Thus more food is necessary to produce a pound of flesh when, after one year old the tissues have to be repaired, than before and up to that period, when all vitality is not repairing waste, but developing growth. It has been demonstrated that the quantity of meat produced by sheep delivered to the butcher at the precocious age of from nine to fifteen months cost exactly half the expense of those fed to double that age. By bringing the animals early to the block, we reduce risks, and labor, and time, which in this, as in everything else, means money. The great fight amongst the mutton breeds of sheep hereafter must hinge on the matter of early maturity more than on any thing else.

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Keeping Horses Shod.
[From the American Cultivator.]

Horses kept in use either on the farm or road need to be well shod, and never more than during winter. Frozen roads are all the worse on horses' hoofs from the fact that the latter are more apt to be brittle than during warmer weather. The hoof does not grow so rapidly in winter; but with some horses it grows unevenly, requiring frequent resetting to avoid sprains. Teams at work will well pay for good shoeing in increased efficiency, besides preventing danger from accidents. Horses kept on hard, frozen and icy roads should be kept sharp shod. Any other policy is cruel as well as dangerous.

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Who is the Successful Farmer?
[By J. A. Curtis, of Patch Grove.]

"Our success is what we make it; joy waits for those who take it. Patience, energy, smiles and pluck, mine and coin and stamp success."

That is what are the principles and practices to which successful farmers owe their success. The successful farmers of to-day, as a class, keep up with the progress of the times, and admit science and intellect into the fields and the barnyard, and give employment to the brains as well as the hands. They see that only in the light of science can labor, such as the farm requires, be made attractive and elevating. Changes, innovation, improvements, are going on everywhere in the fields and household of the successful farmer. When thought, and order, and scientific rules, and good, practical sense regulate and direct the farm, the owner is sure to be a successful man. Thought is necessary to make work honorable. Thought makes the farmer a skillful tiller of the soil, and it adds dignity to labor. Hence it is the great educator of the intellectual and moral development of man.

Many men who have accumulated a competency by farming, when the land was new, are far from being successful farmers in the true sense of the word.
I knew a man who owned land by the thousands of acres, and yet he was a very poor specimen of farmer. His land has been rented and constantly cropped, until it has been nearly exhausted of its fertility. The less we have of such farming the better for the community, as well as for posterity. Every man owes something to posterity, and millions are living and dying with debt unpaid. It is only when men have paid the debt they owe to man, to society, to government, and to the world, that they can claim to be free, or claim to be successful in any line of business. A life wasted as the miser wastes it, as he who never sends a thrill of pleasure through any human heart, is a bankrupt life. "None liveth to himself alone." If we could all realize this solemn fact, this old world of ours would be better and brighter and grander. "A man isn't a man unless he is in close and intimate relation to other human beings." The miser leaves the heart baron, without a flower of kindness, without a blossom of pity. There is no sense, there is no profit in such a life. It is not living.

To be a successful farmer in this age of thrift and enterprise requires a high degree of intelligence. To keep anywhere near the front rank he must keep himself well-posted in the markets of the world, and the supply and demand of various farm products. There is no broader field of science, no more demand for thought and general mental activity, than in the work of a well-conducted farm. Labor is dignified and honorable when guided by enlightened intellect. The farmer should be an educated man, if for nothing else, that he may enjoy his business and ennoble his profession.

The successful farmer does things on time and with dispatch. He has good stock, well-made fences, flourishing crops, clean fields, and other evidence of thrift. To him farming is honorable and profitable, and life is easy. The poor farmer does things in a shiftless fashion and fails. To him farming is a poor business, he lives hard, and cannot see why any one ever wants to farm for a living. On habits of thoroughness and quickness, or lack of them depends success or failure in any line of business. The successful farmer is on time with all his work, doing everything just when it ought to be done to give the best results. The unsuccessful farmer is somewhat careless and behind hand, doing just as much work as his successful neighbor during the season, but not doing it on time, according to the best light of the present day. The first may be able to improve his farm and buildings, and surround his family with comforts and luxuries, while the latter will generally do well if he holds his own without any attempts at improvement.

Farmers have you thought of this? Let me illustrate in the simple matter of plowing and preparing land for crops. The successful farmer begins in good season, so that he has plenty of time to do it thoroughly. He never plows when it is too wet; if it be dry weather he harrows or rolls the fresh plowed land each day, when it is in perfect condition to work down with little labor. The unsuccessful farmer is behind in starting, and then is in such a hurry that he does not half do the plowing. He neglects to harrow until he is all through plowing, and then if a rain does not come at the time he wants it, he wears out horses and tools, and his own patience in almost vain endeavor to make a good seed-bed out of dried-up clods. The harrow simply moves the lumps around a little, breaking a few of them, but not doing one-quarter the real good that it would if it had been used at just the right time. So when cultivating corn or potatoes or any other crop. The first farmer is on time and stirs the earth as soon as it is dry enough after a shower, thus preventing a crust from forming and checking evaporation, and letting in the air and saving all the moisture possible for the crop. The second is behind. He does just as much work; that is, cultivates just as many times, but he isn't on time. He does not do it when it will do the most good, and the result is a light crop. The successful farmer not only raises large crops, but raises those that produce the most money and keep up the fertility of the soil. He uses the most improved methods in planting, cultivation, harvesting and fertilization. He does not use an expensive fertilization of the land, when a cheap fertilization will do as well or better. New ways, new methods and more skill will bring greater rewards than the old fogies ever dreamed of. We should not use two acres to raise what we can produce upon one.
Living on a farm does not prepare one to become a successful farmer. Fitting one's self for any business is an important element of success. The way is for each to study his own circumstances and make the most of them. The successful farmer is industrious, saving, persevering and prudent, in order to accomplish his object. Success is often determined by surrounding circumstances and our individual sagacity of making use of them. The successful farmer works to improve the farm, its fertility, the crops and the stock; doing all the work necessary in a thorough manner so that only the best results will be received. He knows that the fertility of the soil is his capital; on this depends largely his success or failure, and his great anxiety is how to keep it up to the highest point at the least expense. It is a well-known fact that it is much easier to keep it up as we go along than after it has been allowed to run down. It does not pay to raise small crops of any kind; medium crops may just pay expenses, while that part of a large crop in excess of a medium may be nearly all profit. No farmer can afford to raise corn, oats and hay to sell. He should sell horses, not oats; sheep, cattle and hogs, not corn. He should make every profit possible out of what he produces. So long as farmers sell corn and oats they will be poor. When we cease paying tribute to others we will be prosperous. The successful farmer takes care of what he has and what he produces. As an element of success the farmer must give his best thought and time to his business; he must make it more than a recreation, more than a pastime. "It must be the study of a lifetime." The great element of success in all employments is the power to concentrate the mind upon the task before it until it is mastered. It is the iron will and an unconquerable determination given to the work till it is done, that is the secret of success. The power of concentration stimulates the whole body, as well as the powers of the mind, to the accomplishment of the task. The more of mind we carry into toil the better. Without a habit of thought a man works more like a brute or a machine than like a man. With thought his soul is kept alive amidst his toil. Labor becomes a new thing when thought is thrown into it, when the mind keeps pace with the hands. The successful man enjoys more and is happier than the unsuccessful man.

Young man, whatever you undertake master it in all its details and determine to stand at the head; this is a great essential to success, and it shows that you have abilities for your work. One may have a taste for a special line of business, like raising fine cattle, fine horses, fine hogs, or fine sheep, and if he makes it profitable he is a successful farmer. The truly successful farmer will try to make farming so attractive and labor so respectable and healthy that farming will receive a luster, making it beautiful and desirable in the eyes of the world.

Domestic Help, and How the Problem May Be Solved.

[By Miss Sue Bidwell, of Lancaster.]

"Domestic Help, and How the Problem May Be Solved," was given me as a topic for to-day, and the time limited to twenty minutes for the work; let me tell you plainly friends, no such time will answer to solve a question of so much importance that it is being discussed in hundreds of thousands of homes all over our broad land, and away beyond the seas in foreign lands. It will take generations to eliminate the x or unknown quantity, so complicated has one of the simplest of questions become; the given time will hardly permit even a clear statement of the condition or causes, leaving it to each woman possessing, or contemplating the possession of a home, to assist in the solution of the problem; in early life necessity compelled me to solve it on the principle of self-reliance; to be my own help under all possible circumstances, but my rule wont apply in all cases and at all times.

The statement of the question before us shall be confined to life in our country homes, in the farmer's family, for the women who had the demands of society over those of their own families; for the women of fashion who toil not, nor spin, yet are of themselves in attire more gorgeous than that of Solomon in all his glory, for the women who require nurses for their children, to give them leisure to pet their favorite poodles, there are no words of comfort to-day, but rather condemnation; they are largely to blame for the existing condition of social life; they have imported