Vol. I

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The Farm.

"Thorough Cultivation."

[The following is the substance of a paper read before the Alton Hort. Society, by our correspondent, Mr. O. L. Butler.]

If there is one fact in horticulture more than another, that is being impressed on my mind, it is the necessity of the thorough cultivation of the soil—a term of en used, but not, perhaps, with sufficient definiteness, as what one man calls through culture, another does not. When first commencing to stir the soil, I thought I could easily cultivate a certain number of acres with a given amount of working force. The second year saw an increase in the working capital and a decrease in the number of acres; and every year since we have felt the necessity of hiring more labor without increasing the area under cultivation. It is estimated that, in gardening operations, ten men will work ten acres as it ought to be done. This demand is, perhaps, more than we may feel able to meet at present; still we must come to this if we expect the best results. To thoroughly cultivate—that is, to thoroughly *fertilize* for that is the meaning of the term—necessitates a frequent stirring of the soil, not simply to plow when the weeds appear. Thorough culture has a broader mission than this of weed killing. To cultivate is to make productive—to manure; and so this manuring of the soil we are indebted for the best results on the farm and in the garden. When, and how often, then, ought we to stir the ground? Always after every rain, and as soon after as the ground will work well. The frequency of the plowing will depend, in part, on circumstances, on the nature of the soil, and the character and advancement of the crop. "Once a week" is not enough. The idea of plowing simply to kill weeds is ridiculous! We seek, in the frequent stirring of the ground, a mellow soil, with open mouths or pores, eagerly taking from the atmosphere an abundance of plant food. Some plants, the melon for example, take more from the air than from the soil; or rather the soil, in a proper condition, takes from the atmosphere much of the food which it gives to the plant. If we have weeds, we must, of course, fight them to the death; but it is a shame to have weeds, and a double shame to sit at our ease and wait for the weeds to grow; In order to pretice thorough cultivation we must have straight rows, and rows both ways, and level culture. These points are all important, and none more so than *level culture*, especially on hill-sides, where it has a tendency to prevent severe washing, which is a great evil, as all know who have farms on the hill-side. Good culture implies, on our soil, a moderately deep stirring of the soil, so long as the roots of plants are not disturbed by the operation; and deep culture implies horse-power, and this suggests the check-row system, of which we have spoken. The one-horse plows and cultivators must be kept in constant motion in the growing crops. There is work, also, for the hand-hoes and various kinds of weeders, in this system of thorough doing.—*American Agriculturist.*

A Dispensation of Providence.

I found Neighbor Simpson one March morning in his barn skinning a ten-months, calf. I noticed that the throat was not cut, and concluded that it was not a case of slaughter for the shambles. The flesh did not look inviting, and the bones were a little to conspicuous for "the fatted calf." Simpson said he had tried hard to raise the heifer, but could not make it out. "She kind o' hung round the barn, didn't eat much, and last night she died. It is a hard case, a very mysterious dispensation. Ye see, I shall lose ten months' keepin' on this critter, and git nothin' but the hide." By pumping Simpson cautiously, I found it another case of death by bog hay and cold. The animal was kept in a poor pasture through the summer, and came to the foddering season in thin flesh. Mouldy buts and bog hay had been the bill of fare, and these were fed out upon the snow at the stack, with no shelter but chesnut rails. There are two ways of looking at this dispensation, as he was pleased to call it He thought he was not at all responsible for the treatment the poor brute had received, and laid the blame upon Providence. It is just possible that Providence has ordained the conditions of animal life with which he trifled, and that his loss was designed as a punishment fon cruelty. The mysterious thing about it was that Simpson did not see it in this light.

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For producing a quiet, natural and refreshing sleep, rest from which the child will awake, feeling refreshed and sleeked.

THE NURSING SYRUP HAS NO EQUAL.

For the benefit of mothers and nurses, we would say that when your child is restless, feverish, [illegible] teething, has cholera infantum, painful [illegible] and bowels, followed by nausea, [illegible] sleeplessness, and its Magical [illegible] will relieve it.

[illegible] one bottle, and if you [illegible] it return it [illegible] your money. For sale by all [illegible] and nearly all dealers everywhere, at [illegible]

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