

A Talk with Our Farmers.

It is well at the end of this year of our long 1870, to invite our readers to look back over the old year, and in laying plans for the new, be guided by the wisdom of experience acquired in the past. We propose to talk with our farmer readers in this article; and the first question we will propound is, Has farming paid in the past few years, as has formerly been said? It should, for the laborer's end and capital invested? A large majority of our readers will answer in the negative, we are sure. And why? Because the grain crops—especially wheat—have failed, the summer was dry, wages high, the price of produce low, and fertilizers cost so much. These are sufficient reasons for failure, all will doubtless agree. But what guarantee have our farmers that the same drawbacks to success will not overtake them in the year we are just entering upon? Certainly none. But if the farmer cannot control the seasons and prices of produce, he must cast about him and ascertain what he can control. He may control his expenditure on patent manures—these are called "fertilizers," and the purchase of which is, like a slow decay, ruining him. It can determine what kind of produce it is best to turn his attention to; whether it shall be grain, grain, always grain; or whether there are not other products, involving more certainty in commanding more uniform prices, with less expense for tillage, and less cost for manure, combined with a constant improvement of his lands. We appreciate that raising stock, cultivating grass principally, and allowing grain crops to be a secondary object, while the former, with the products of the dairy, claim the principal part of the farmer's care and attention, would be found to increase his profits a hundred fold. While his labor and outlay would be less, his land would improve, by returning to the soil what had been taken from it; and his receipts from the sale of stock and dairy products would be much greater than from the sale of grain; and he might calculate with a reasonable certainty on a uniformity of price for these species of products.

With railroads cutting the county in all parts, communicating in two hours with Philadelphia and Baltimore, this county ought to be one vast region of dairy and stock farms; and not one bushel of grain should be sent out of the county, to be purchased and bring back street dirt, plaster shells, the refuse of marble-quarries, plaster, etc., etc., all ground and compounded with a motley of bone, or guano, and placed with some fine name, and warranted to be the best of concentrated manure. We had the life of a practical farmer for more than twenty years, and "know whereof we affirm." Again, our farmers work too much, and think and read too little. Plodding, plodding all the time, will not pay half so well, as if a large part of the time were devoted to thinking and investigating, and thoroughly mastering their business. There is no other business so diversified as farming. To produce one series of crops requires a whole year, involving constant change. There is no other business in which the process necessary to the end aimed at, requires so continued and varying action. And the action which requires a whole year for its completion, must necessarily demand cultivated talents and judgment of superior order. Let those who own the fertile prairies and deep alluvial soils, free from obstructions to the plow and with other agricultural machinery produce the grain. They can till a large surface with a comparatively small amount of labor, and while they are at no expense for foreign manures, they can calculate to a certainty on a profitable yield of grain. But our thin, hilly and stony soils of Cecil will never compete as grain farms with those more favored lands. The experience of a hundred years, strengthened by every succeeding year, demonstrates this fact, we think, to every observant mind. While we have among the best markets for grain, we have also the best for meat and dairy produce. But we cannot raise the grain without expending more to feed the land than the grain sells for. And we can make stock and dairy produce which will sell for more than the grain, and call for no return to the soil of foreign manure. By stock-feeding and dairying the land constantly improves. By grain farming the land is constantly deteriorating. The former requires care and attention, but less hard labor and hired help. The difference between grain farming and stock-farming in Cecil, is just the difference between poverty and constant plodding with debt to the eyes; and easy, independent circumstances. The stock farmer must throw away his slovenly habits, as acquired as a grain farmer, or he will not succeed any better in one capacity than the other. But with care and attention and good stock, he is bound to succeed.

A Holiday Number.—The present number of The Whig we think will compare favorably, as a local paper, with any other paper in the country. Look at its well filled columns of local news. And say if you remember any single number since the paper was founded, that can compare in local interest with the present. We present our readers with a holiday number this week, with the assurance that the interest of future numbers shall be maintained if effort will accomplish so desirable an end. Since we do our best to give them a home paper every week acceptable, will not the friends and patrons of The Whig, exert themselves a little to send us a few new subscribers from their respective neighborhoods. Make all borrowers subscribe for a copy of their own, by not lending them yours. We will send bills next week to delinquent subscribers whose subscriptions are not paid up to 1870, amounting to over \$700. We have favored none with such sums whose payments mark anywhere inside of 1870, with, perhaps, one or two exceptions. Let every one remember this aggregate when he receives his little bill and send in his mite to diminish it.

The growth of oranges is also very good business, as the trees begin to bear the second year, and continue to increase bearing for a hundred years. If my health improves I should like to go into the orange business, myself, thinking it would be better for me to stay here a little while than to go to any other place. If I can still my property at B. M. House, which I still offer for sale at a low figure. Our markets begin to look like spring plenty of lettuce, nice radishes and green peas. Beef is very low; steak at 12 cents per pound, mutton, 20 cents; and fresh fish of different kinds, such as shad, trout, perch, mullets and catfish. I will now close, wishing you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year. Respectfully, H. L. H.

THE PHILADELPHIA & BALTIMORE CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY. The Annual Meeting of the Philadelphia & Baltimore Central Railroad Company, was held at the City of Philadelphia, on Monday, December 27, 1870. The following officers were elected: President, J. H. WATSON; Vice President, J. H. WATSON; Secretary, J. H. WATSON; Treasurer, J. H. WATSON. The following resolutions were adopted: That the Board of Directors be and they are authorized to do all such things as may be necessary and proper to carry out the objects of the Company. That the Board of Directors be and they are authorized to do all such things as may be necessary and proper to carry out the objects of the Company. That the Board of Directors be and they are authorized to do all such things as may be necessary and proper to carry out the objects of the Company.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. GREAT ANNUAL SALE. THE LATENESS OF THE SEASON. OVERSTOCK OF GOODS. MAKE A SWIFT AND LARGE SALE. WE WILL CUT STILL CLOSER. THIS SEASON. OUR STOCK IS LARGER THAN EVER, and all fresh, as these large Annual Sales clear us out. Every article of either MEN'S OR BOYS' CLOTHING is warranted to be of good material, well cut, and of substantial make, and as the REDUCED PRICES are offered, WE INVITE A COMPARISON OF THE PRICES, WHICH WILL PROVE THAT THE WAY WE BUY ENABLES US TO GET UNDER OTHER PEOPLE'S LOW PRICES, especially when we are willing to sell many articles at the BARE COST OF MANUFACTURE, TO CLOSE THE SEASON. WE WILL NOT CARRY STOCK. IT MUST BE SOLD. To give an idea of what we actually have, there are in store 10,000 Business Coats, 15,000 Men's Pants, 15,000 Men's Vests, 5,500 Overcoats, 3,000 Fine Chestertifolds, 4,000 Boys' Jackets, 6,000 Boys' Pants, 3,000 Children's Suits. This is the best kind of Clothing and of every desirable color, cut and quality. Our Immense Six-story Buildings are packed from Basement to Loft! ALL OF WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED TO SELL. For this occasion we have a large Corps of Salesmen, and will reinforce our Cutting Department. Store will open at 6-12 and keep open to the Evening to 8-12, to afford workmen an opportunity; Saturday Nights until 10. A Visit solicited, whether wishing to purchase or not. W. J. VANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, WHOLE BLOCK OF BUILDINGS, S. E. Cor. Sixth and Market Streets, PHILADELPHIA.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS. CHRISTIAN STANDARD. THE LATEST OF THE SEASON. OVERSTOCK OF GOODS. MAKE A SWIFT AND LARGE SALE. WE WILL CUT STILL CLOSER. THIS SEASON. OUR STOCK IS LARGER THAN EVER, and all fresh, as these large Annual Sales clear us out. Every article of either MEN'S OR BOYS' CLOTHING is warranted to be of good material, well cut, and of substantial make, and as the REDUCED PRICES are offered, WE INVITE A COMPARISON OF THE PRICES, WHICH WILL PROVE THAT THE WAY WE BUY ENABLES US TO GET UNDER OTHER PEOPLE'S LOW PRICES, especially when we are willing to sell many articles at the BARE COST OF MANUFACTURE, TO CLOSE THE SEASON. WE WILL NOT CARRY STOCK. IT MUST BE SOLD. To give an idea of what we actually have, there are in store 10,000 Business Coats, 15,000 Men's Pants, 15,000 Men's Vests, 5,500 Overcoats, 3,000 Fine Chestertifolds, 4,000 Boys' Jackets, 6,000 Boys' Pants, 3,000 Children's Suits. This is the best kind of Clothing and of every desirable color, cut and quality. Our Immense Six-story Buildings are packed from Basement to Loft! ALL OF WHICH WE ARE DETERMINED TO SELL. For this occasion we have a large Corps of Salesmen, and will reinforce our Cutting Department. Store will open at 6-12 and keep open to the Evening to 8-12, to afford workmen an opportunity; Saturday Nights until 10. A Visit solicited, whether wishing to purchase or not. W. J. VANAMAKER & BROWN, OAK HALL, WHOLE BLOCK OF BUILDINGS, S. E. Cor. Sixth and Market Streets, PHILADELPHIA.

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