

# The College Monthly

Vol. 2,

Amherst, Mass. February, 1888.

No. 5.

## Agricultural Education.

To manage a farm successfully demands first-rate ability. The farmer must combine in himself the functions of the landlord, the capitalist, the business manager, and the laborer.

It will not do for the farmer to despise manual labor. He must possess the physical strength and disposition that will enable him to lend a hand to any part of the numberless tasks that on every farm must be wrought.

The farmer must be a good business manager. If his manual labor is allowed in any way to impair his efficiency as a business manager, it costs him too much; for by poor management, he will inevitably lose much more than he can possibly gain by working in competition with agricultural laborers imported from the pauper districts of the old world. To carry on a farm, requires as much business talent as to manage a store or an ordinary factory. Indeed he must possess the qualities of both the manufacturer and of the merchant, for he must be able not only to raise his crop but also to sell it. To raise it he must employ men, and manage machinery, and what is more, be able to understand and wisely control the most powerful and seemingly capricious forces of nature. The storms of the heaven, the beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, the insect of the hour, the forces of light and heat, of chemistry and of life must all be combated or influenced that they may work for, and not against the farmer both night and day, winter and summer. But to raise his crop, difficult as the task may be, is only a part of the farmer's undertaking. To determine what crop to raise, when to raise it, and how to dispose of it when he has secured it, is what tasks most of all, the judgment and wise insight of the successful farmer. This is the crucial test. The farmer who is master at this point, is sure

of success. To succeed here requires a clear head, a disciplined mind, a knowledge of men and affairs, a high order of talent, I might say genius.

The farmer must be a capitalist. He should own his own farm, stock and tools. These things are capital, wealth devoted to the production of wealth. For the use of his capital he should receive interest. How many farmers over and above their wages, not to speak of rent, receive five per cent interest on capital invested? The truth is that many a farmer loses in interest more than he makes in wages.

A farmer is a landlord, and as such should receive rent. By rent is meant not interest on money invested in houses and tools and improvements in land, but economic rent which is the difference in the value of the net product of an acre over and above that of other acres which must be cultivated to supply the demand of the market. The probabilities are that very few farmers know what rent is and have no idea whether their farm yields them any rent or not. Yet rent is one of the chief elements in the income of the successful farmer.

Now there is a demand ever growing stronger and offering constantly increasing remuneration for the successful farmer. The man who can combine in himself a capable laborer, a first-rate business manager, a shrewd capitalist and an intelligent landlord can take his choice of farms and will be sure of a remuneration and honorable vocation. But where will such farmers come from? The barnyard, the primary school and years hoeing corn in company with ignorant laborers imported from Europe cannot possibly produce them. If the farmers of today wish to see their sons grow up to be the successful farmers of the twentieth century, they must take advantage of the facilities of agricultural education, afforded them by the liberality of the state and the United States and crowd our agricultural colleges with young men resolved to make the most of themselves for agriculture that in the end agriculture may make the most of them.



Written for The College Monthly:

## A Chronic Liar and a Chronic Truth-teller.

The first was a little girl, a charming little body, the very picture of innocence, but she would lie; the truth was not in her. The Rev. Robert Collier in his New year's sermon said that on one occasion when she had been telling some remarkable falsehoods, her mother said to her, "My daughter, do you not know that Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for lying?" "Yes mother," said the little girl, "I was there, and saw them die." She was a chronic liar and although it makes it appear rather worse for the girl, it is a pleasure to place in contrast the character of a person who was strictly truthful. Such a one I had the pleasure of meeting not long since, and the following is a brief description of the discipline through which he passed while being trained in the school of truthfulness. I have the narrative from his own lips.

"My parents were poor but respectable, and I was the favorite son. How to train up their child in the way he should go was one of the weightiest problems that my devoted parents ever attempted to solve, and from my earliest recollections up to the time which had been set by the decrees for my orphanage to commence I was daily instructed in lessons of honesty. Little George Washington was held up as a perfect model and I was even furnished with a brand new hatchet with instructions to cut down all the cherry trees that I could find. Later, I was directed in imitation of the youthful George W., to mount the only colt that the family possessed and ride him as long as there was a particle of breath in his body. In this last attempt to cultivate a love for truthfulness, I met with a loss which neither art or nature has been able to restore. The colt was a reckless mustang, entirely destitute of those finer qualities which well bred horses are supposed to possess. In form and feature he was by no means perfect, being cross-eyed, lop-eared, bow-legged, and spike-tailed, while his gait was of the rotary cyclonic order. Once up-

on his back I had no difficulty in remaining there, in spite of his efforts to dislodge me, owing to the projection of his ribs which gave me a foothold, making my position thoroughly secure.

When the colt found that I had mounted to stay, he commenced a circuit around the field; around and around he went like the wind, gradually narrowing the circle until after an hour's race, he had reached the center, when poising himself upon the extremity of his spike tail, he spun around like a top and it became painfully evident to me that if I continued my close relationship with the colt much longer I would be taking a journey through the bowels of the earth, so I dismounted just in time to see it disappear beneath the surface.

As I have already intimated, my experience at his time was not altogether pleasant. Not a particle of hair remained upon my head, so you see that my love for the truth has made me bald, and yet I have never regretted my devotion to its cause."

Having reached this important period in the history of his life, my bald-headed friend was so overcome that he asked to be excused for the time. I excused him upon the condition that he would give me his autograph. He gave it "Bill Nye."

UNCLE BEN.

Great numbers do our use despise,  
But yet at last they find,  
Without our help in many things,  
They might as well be blind,  
(Spectacles.)

Enough for one, too much for two, and  
nothing at all for three. (A Secret.)

Claude F. Walker,  
Job Printer.

BILL HEADS,  
ENVELOPES, CIRCULARS,  
LETTER HEADS,  
AND ALL KINDS OF  
Stationery

Printed With  
Neatness and Dispatch  
AT THE OFFICE OF  
The College Monthly.

## The Grange.

### THE STATE GRANGE.

The following is taken from the report of the Committee on the M. A. C. presented at the last meeting of the State Grange:—

“We asked an enthusiastic farmer and Patron who visited the College at its last commencement ‘How he liked the Institution’. His reply was, I wish I had a dozen boys and could send every one of them there.’ And this we think but voices the opinion of every farmer who takes the pains to visit the college and examine its workings.”

Owing to an oversight in mentioning the officers of the State Grange, in our last issue, the name of G. R. Chase, of Medfield, as Lecturer, was omitted.

### THE COUNTY GRANGE

met at Amherst, Feb. 16, and the following officers were elected:—

Master, E. T. Sabin, Amherst.  
Overseer, S. G. Hubbard, Hatfield.  
Lecturer, Isaac Parsons, Northampton.  
Chaplain, G. E. Fisher, No. Amherst.  
Steward, W. H. Bridgman, Belchertown.  
Ass't „ Herbert Sabin, Amherst.  
Secretary, A. H. Graves, Hatfield.  
Treasurer, A. S. Bartlett, Northampton.  
Ceres, Mrs. A. H. Graves, Hatfield.  
Flora, Mrs. C. Parsons, Northampton.  
Pomona, Mrs. Joseph Graves, Northampton.

### AMHERST GRANGE, NO. 16.

The following programme will be carried out during the next month:

MARCH 2, Business. Plans for the season's work. How can we economise in hiring help and in the use of improved machinery both in the house and in the field? J. C. Dillon.

MARCH 9, Open meeting. Live Stock and the dairy. (To be announced later.)

MARCH 16, Business. The good of the Order. C. S. Smith, How can we make the best use of fertilizers? H. D. Dana.

MARCH 30, Open meeting. The farmer and his family as Entomologists. Dr. C. H. Fernald.

## Massachusetts Agricultural College,

### Botanical Department,

AMHERST, MASS.

We would inform the friends of the College, and the public generally, that we are prepared to supply

### Fruit and Ornamental

Trees and Shrubs,

### Small Fruits and Plants,

Cut Flowers and Designs,

ALL TRUE TO NAME AND AT THE  
LOWEST PRICE.

— FOR —

Trees, Shrubs,

Plants, Flowers,

AND  
SMALL FRUITS,

Address,

Prof. S.T. MAYNARD,

Amherst, Mass.