

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Storing Tools—How to Seed Down Ground—Birds Pulling Corn—Pigs in Clover—Keeping Sows to Breeding—Selling Young Pigs—Drying Out Rubber Boots—Notes.

STORING TOOLS.

Illustration of the Carelessness Which Too Frequently Prevails.

WHEN returning from a little lecturing trip in Ohio we were delayed some hours by an accident, and our train "blew up" at the finest agricultural sections of that gem State. Toward evening the prospects of getting to my town for supper became very gloomy, and a half dozen or more struck across the fields for a farm house, and were much gratified at the devices adopted for storing farm tools and machinery. A good plow, apparently nearly new, had been left in the corner of the field standing in the furrow, just where, last fall, the plowman had finished his stint. Probably the timber needed seasoning—it was certainly getting it; or, maybe, it was left there for acclimation. Perhaps the farmer left it there to save time in the hurry of spring work in dragging it from the shed to the barn. In any case, it was not kept in the elements and save it from rusting; or, again, perhaps he is troubled with neighbors that borrow, and left it where it would be convenient for them. He might at least have built a shed over it.

Over in an adjoining field was a reaper and binder just where the job was finished last fall in gathering the wheat crop; in fact a few bundles of straw—the hogs had taken the wheat—were thrown over the concern, and the hogs had a cozy nest among the gear and the straw. Perhaps the farmer had not got the warmest place had worn all the dirt and rust off in many places, and the constant friction of their bristles made the machine take a high polish in places. Approaching the house, we passed through the barn yard, and if this man does not act wisely, it will be a question which he can easier move, the farm buildings or the manure heaps. Passing to the house the same order prevailed, though we managed to get something to eat, and paid seventy-five cents apiece for some bread and milk and a greasy doughnut or two.

After returning to the train, we were tired, and ordered our berth prepared and were soon asleep and dreaming. We again visited that man's barn; boards were kicked off, partitions were half broken down, racks broken, floor a foot higher in places, and the old idea was to make pork from slop and dirty dish water, and a sole diet of corn, but now that pork is made from good milk, clover and grasses, it is better, sweeter and more commonly used. Grass-fed hogs, or those which are fed clover until autumn, and then fattened on the new corn, are nearly always exempt from cholera and other swine diseases. Clover and other sweet grasses are essentials in the diet of pigs as well as in other animals. The farmer that feeds his cows and horses on an excellent diet of corn, and feeds his hogs clover and grass, will be voted down as a lunatic or fool. Yet about the same sort of system has been applied to the swine for many years past, and growers as well as consumers are awakening to the fact that sweeter and more wholesome pork is being sent to the markets. Germany and France complain of our pork, often with just cause. No country in the world is so well adapted to swine raising as this, and more pork than can be consumed in the States is grown every year. Foreign markets are thus essential to the swine raiser, but these cannot be opened and kept supplied with a steady stream of pork in sending abroad good, sweet, wholesome pork. American pork has received a bad name on the other side, but with the improved method of raising swine on good sweet clover and grasses, and fattening them on new corn, there is every possibility of greater success in the business.

As it may not be practical always to pasture the swine out, it is a good plan to adopt a system of soiling which will keep the hogs supplied with green food in summer, and roots or silage in the winter. If the hogs are given the run of the field, they will often winter months with but very little grain. A ration of hay or dry grass during the season when the pastures are covered with snow will be very acceptable, and greatly reduce the cost of wintering the herd. But pig money must now come out of the pocket of the farmer, the orchard, and other cheap foods. The old demand may have been for pork in the land sense, but the coming demand is for meat in the muscle sense, and good, sweet, wholesome meat at that. The active hog, which has the range of the field, will winter better, and will grow much faster and better than the inactive, sluggish one, penned up and fed on an exclusive diet of corn. The sluggish one will fill up with fat, and the secretions will be dried up and the blood will thicken. The system of such an animal is to grow fat, and to grow fat, and besides it is always more costly to produce fat than good meat, and to-day it is the least value as a food.

The old idea seems to have been to begin to fatten the hogs as soon as born, and as a result nothing but fat pork was produced. First, the hogs were fattened, and then when the germs of a deadly disease were found in the great rolls of fat the consumers became frightened. Pork was no longer the meat of the people. The hog that is brought up to make muscle and lean meat, and then fattened, and then sold to the butcher and consumers. A complete change has thus been inaugurated in swine breeding, and for the better. The result is going to be more profitable for the breeders, and more and superior pork for the consumers. It is also blot out the kind of which American pork has received abroad quicker and more effectively than all governmental interference. The whole trouble and remedy lies in the hands of the swine breeders.—W. E. Farmer, in *American Cultivator*.

Keeping Sows to Breeding.
The fact is not so well known as it

should be that from three to five days after dropping her litter a pig a sow will mate again. It is best with large, fully grown sows, to let them have pigs as often as possible, as in our experience they do better and produce more thrifty growing pigs by this method. The explanation of this paradox is that this method prevents the sow from getting fat, so as to injure her breeding, as she is sure to do if left too long without pigs suckling her. Sows thus treated not only bear but will need liberal feeding, as the growing fetus and suckling pigs are drawing on the sow, besides the nourishment required to maintain her own existence.—*American Cultivator*.

Selling Young Pigs.
There is no way of making profit from hogs so easily and certainly as keeping a number of first-class breeding sows and selling their pigs when from six to ten weeks old. The price of pigs at this age generally represent both in the eye of the seller and buyer a considerable share of what the pig will grow to if properly fed. It is true the young pig makes more weight from same amount of feed than he does when older, but generally the man who sells the pig gets this profit, or a good share of it, without the expense of feeding.

Notes.
UNIFORMITY in size, color and weight will add to the value of a lot of hogs when they are ready to market. Irregularity among swine breeders is a good thing, so long as it does not lead them to disparage the merits of others. Of the seven to nine months required to feed a hog for market, from five to seven of them should be spent in good pastures. In a majority of cases it is the breeder and feeder that looks after the little things that management that makes the most money. It is to the credit of hog breeders that in comparison with other classes of stock fully as much improvement has been made, says the *Iowa Farmer*.

The best profit is not realized with the greatest weight in swine, says an exchange. It is medium weight and early maturity that is the most desirable. Many beginners get discouraged in attempting to improve the quality of their hogs because prices get low, but this should only be an inducement for further improvement, says a writer.

THE HOUSEHOLD.
Drying Out Rubber Boots.
Many farmers would wear rubber boots more than they do if they knew how to get them dry inside. A wet rubber boot

is about the most uncomfortable thing one can put on his feet. Mr. M. H. C. Gardner, of Orange County, N. Y., writes that he had a pair of boots that were so wet that he could not wear them. He had a pair of wire mesh boots made, and was about ready to give up rubber boots when he hit upon the plan for drying shown in the illustrations. A stout wire is bent as shown, with loops large enough to admit the boot laces. There is a hook at the back to hold the wire in place when put over the

stovepipe. The boots are thus out of the way, and when a fire is kept over night they are perfectly dry and warm in the morning.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Hints to Housekeepers.
It is said that scalds may be cured by applying a coating of flowers of sulphur to the afflicted limb. Corns should be much used for picture frames. It should not be more than half an inch in diameter, except for large pictures. Hemp and manilla are also used; but hemp is better, for it is smooth. A good plan for keeping butter cool and sweet in summer is to fill a box with sand to within an inch or two of the top; sink the butter jars in the sand, and thoroughly wet the sand with cold water. Cover the box air-tight. The box may be kept in the kitchen. For tender feet, take two quarts of cold water and add one tablespoonful of bay rum and two tablespoonfuls of ammonia. The feet should be soaked in this for ten minutes, throwing the water upward to the knees. Rub dry with crash towel, and the tired feeling will be gone. A useful cement for mending earthen or stone jars, stopping leaks in the seams of tin pans or iron kettles, or tightening loose joints of iron or wood, is made by mixing litarge and glycerine to a thick cream. This will cure acid heat and cold, if the article is not used until the cement has hardened. MACARONI should be used much more than it is. It is a very good substitute for potatoes when that vegetable is scarce and high, as it is this year. Many physicians object seriously to the use of old potatoes after they have begun to sprout, and on their own tables use macaroni instead. The simple ways of preparing this dish everybody knows. RATTAN and willow chairs should be cleared, like straw matting, with salt and water. First thoroughly remove the dirt. Then wring a clean cloth out of salt and water, rubbing chair or matting dry with the other hand as you go on, or at any rate, as quickly as you can, so that it may retain none of the moisture.

THE BATTLE OF CREEDS.

DR. TALMAGE GIVES A SKETCH OF THE HERESY HUNT.

There is an exciting question in almost every denomination—Are the Theologians Losing Temper in the Discussion?—No One is Bettered by It.

Dr. Talmage dealt in this sermon last Sunday, with the very timely topic, "The Battle of Creeds." His text was taken from Proverbs xxvii, 17, "He that passeth by and meddleth with strife belonging not to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears."

Solomon here deprecates the habit of rushing in between contestants, of taking part in the antagonism of others, of joining in fights which they ought to shun. They do no good to others and do damage for themselves. He compares it to the experiment of taking a dog by the ears. Nothing so irritates the canines as to be clutched by the lugs. Take them by the back of the neck and lift them and it does not seem to hurt or offend; but if you take them by the ears, they will take you with their teeth. In all the history of kennels no intelligent or spirited dog will stand that. "Now," says Solomon, "you go into quarrels or controversies that are not yours and you will get lacerated and mangled."

He that takes part in the strife of others, and meddles with strife belonging not to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." This is a time of resounding ecclesiastical quarrel. Never within my memory or mine has the air been so full of missiles. The controversy so great that it finds its prototype to postpone its settlement for at least one more year, hoping that something will turn up. Somebody might die or a new general assembly may have grace to handle the exciting questions. The spirit of the age is one of intolerance, and its digestive organs are taxed to the utmost in trying to assimilate others. "Shall women preach?" "Or be sent as delegates to conferences?" are questions that have put many of our Methodist brethren on the "anxious bench" and have made some of the great baptistries are troubled waters.

Because of the controversies throughout Christendom the air is now like an August afternoon about 5 o'clock when it has been steaming hot all day, and clouds are gathering, and there are lions and tigers and bears in the streets, and flashing eyes coming forth from their cloudy lairs, and people are waiting for the full burst of the tempest. I am not so much of a weather prophet, but the clouds look to me mostly like wind clouds. It may be a big blow, but I have not the water in me to see the end of the Battle of Creeds. I am every day asked what I think about it. I want to make it so plain this morning what I think that no one will ever ask again.

Let those who are jurymen in the case, I mean those who are diligent ecclesiastical courts, have the questions put directly to the witnesses. Give me the facts. Let the rest of us keep out. The most damaging thing on earth is religious controversy. No one ever comes out of it as good a man as he goes in. Some of the ministers, in all denominations, who, before the present acerbity were good and useful, now seem almost swearing men, and a few others who were pious, and was about ready to give up rubber boots when he hit upon the plan for drying shown in the illustrations. A stout wire is bent as shown, with loops large enough to admit the boot laces. There is a hook at the back to hold the wire in place when put over the

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These brethren I notice always open their violent meetings with prayer before devouring each other, thus saying grace before meat. They have a moral hydrophobia that makes us think they have taken a dog by the ears. They never take the time to say a word of prayer with such zest as since the Briggs and Newton and MacQuary and Bridgman and Brooks questions got into full swing. May the rams of the sheepfold soon have their horns sawed off. Before the controversies are settled a good many ministers will be crying out, "Give us a little realism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago.

This trouble throughout Christendom was directly caused by the doctrine of Calvinism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago. This trouble throughout Christendom was directly caused by the doctrine of Calvinism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago.

So Satan rose one day upon his throne and said, "Ye powers of darkness, hear!" And all up and down the caverns the cry went, "Hail, Satan!" Satan said, "I will be that American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It must either be demolished or crippled, or the first thing you know they will have all nations brought to God. Apollony the Younger! You go up to Andover and get the Professor to discuss whether the hells can be saved without the Gospel. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured.

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religion a laughing stock of earth and hell, to leave the Bible with no more respect or authenticity than an old almanac of 1822, which told what would be the change of weather six months ahead and in what quarter of the moon it is best to plant turnips. In a word, the effort is to stop the evangelization of the world.

It seems to me very much like this: There has been a railroad accident and many are wounded and dying. There are several doctors, and the scene of casualty. All the doctors and druggists are needed, and needed right away. Bandages, stimulants, anesthetics, medicines of all sorts. What are the doctors and druggists doing? Discussing the contents of some old bottles on the top shelf—bottles of medicine which some doctors and druggists mixed two or three hundred years ago. "Come, doctors!" "Come, druggists!" cry the people, "and help these wounded and dying that are lying on the ground beneath the timbers of the crushed rail train. In a little while it will be too late. Come, for God's sake! Come right away!" "No," says a doctor, "not until we have settled whether the medicine on that top shelf is any good, or whether there are too many drops of laudanum in it, and this other man says there were too many drops of camphire, and we must get this question settled before we can attend to the railroad accident."

And one doctor takes another doctor by the hand and pushes the druggists counter, and one of the druggists says, "If you will not admit that I am right about that one bottle I will smash every bottle in your apothecary store," and he proceeds to smash. Meanwhile, on the ground beneath the timbers of the crushed rail train, in a little while it will be too late. Come, for God's sake! Come right away!" "No," says a doctor, "not until we have settled whether the medicine on that top shelf is any good, or whether there are too many drops of laudanum in it, and this other man says there were too many drops of camphire, and we must get this question settled before we can attend to the railroad accident."

Now, what part shall you and I take in this controversy which fills all Christendom with clangor? My answer is: Take no part. In time of riot all mayors of cities advise good citizens to stay at home or in their places of business, and in this time of religious riot I advise you to go about your regular work for God. Leave the bottles on the higher shelves and do not go to the lower shelves. The two bottles on the shelf within easy reach, the two bottles which are the dying world needs; the one filled with a potion which is for the cleansing of all sin, the other filled with a potion which is for the soothing of all suffering. Two bottles of blood. One is the blood of His own tears and blood. In them is His human admixture. Spend no time on the mysteries! You, a man only five or six feet high, ought not try to wade an ocean a thousand feet deep.

My own experience has been vivid. I devoted the most of my time for years in trying to understand God's words of creed, and I was determined to find out why the Lord let sin come into the world, and I set out to explore the doctrine of the Trinity, and with a yardstick to measure the throne of the Infinite. As with all my predecessors, the attempt was a dead failure. For the last ten years I have spent two minutes in studying the controverted points of theology, and if I live thirty years longer I will not spend the thousandth part of a second in such exploration. I know two things, and these I will devote all the years of my life in proclaiming: One is that God is good, and the other is, and He will comfort trouble.

Creeds have their uses, but just now the church is creeded to death. The young men entering the ministry are going to be launched in the thickest fog that ever settled on the coasts. As I am going to do, our services at the First Princeton and Union and other theological seminaries are present, and as these words will come to thousands of young men who are soon to enter the ministry, let me say to such, and through them to their associates, keep out of the bewildering, belittling, destroying and angry controversy. Do not let us know our doctors of divinity are trying to settle will not be settled until the day after the day of judgment. It is such a poor economy of time to spend years and years in trying to fathom the unfathomable when in five minutes in Heaven we will know all that we want to know about our throne. Wait until the light of eternity flashes upon our newly ascended spirits.

It is useless for ants on different sides of a mole hill to try to discuss the comparative heights of Mount Blanc and Mount Washington. Give us back all the old creeds, and let us go to the ministry that soon the greatest novelty in the world will be the unadulterated religion of Jesus Christ. Preach that and you will have a crowd. The world is sick to regurgitation with the modern quacks in religion. The world has been swinging from the golden rule of Jesus back and back, and by the time you young men go into the pulpits the cry will be coming up from all the millions of mankind, "Give us the bread of life; no sweetened bread, no bread with sickly raisins stuck here and there into it, but old fashioned bread, and God our mother mixed it and baked it!"

You see God knew as much when he made the Bible as he knows now. He has not learned a single thing in six thousand years. He knew at the start that the human race would go wrong, and that would be the best means of its restoration and redemption. And the law which was thundered on Mount Sinai, from whose top I had the two tables of stone in yonder wall transported, is the perfect law. And the Gospel which Christ announced while dying on the cross, and which I have brought that stone in yonder wall, and which Paul preached on that hill from which I brought yonder granite, is the Gospel that is going to save the world. Young men put on that Gospel armor! No other sword will triumph like that. No other helmet will protect like that. No other shield will give off the battle axes like that.

Our theological seminaries are doing glorious work, but if ever such theological seminaries shall cease to prepare men for the pulpit, God will send down the angels to become more philosophical schools for guessing about God and guessing about the soul, they will cease their usefulness, and young men, as in olden times, when they would study and meditate, will be obliged to put themselves under the care of some student and warm hearted pastor, and kneel with him in fervent prayer at the parsonage, and go with him into the room of the sick and the dying, and see what victories the grace of God can gain when the

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Solomon here deprecates the habit of rushing in between contestants, of taking part in the antagonism of others, of joining in fights which they ought to shun. They do no good to others and do damage for themselves. He compares it to the experiment of taking a dog by the ears. Nothing so irritates the canines as to be clutched by the lugs. Take them by the back of the neck and lift them and it does not seem to hurt or offend; but if you take them by the ears, they will take you with their teeth. In all the history of kennels no intelligent or spirited dog will stand that. "Now," says Solomon, "you go into quarrels or controversies that are not yours and you will get lacerated and mangled."

He that takes part in the strife of others, and meddles with strife belonging not to him is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." This is a time of resounding ecclesiastical quarrel. Never within my memory or mine has the air been so full of missiles. The controversy so great that it finds its prototype to postpone its settlement for at least one more year, hoping that something will turn up. Somebody might die or a new general assembly may have grace to handle the exciting questions. The spirit of the age is one of intolerance, and its digestive organs are taxed to the utmost in trying to assimilate others. "Shall women preach?" "Or be sent as delegates to conferences?" are questions that have put many of our Methodist brethren on the "anxious bench" and have made some of the great baptistries are troubled waters.

Because of the controversies throughout Christendom the air is now like an August afternoon about 5 o'clock when it has been steaming hot all day, and clouds are gathering, and there are lions and tigers and bears in the streets, and flashing eyes coming forth from their cloudy lairs, and people are waiting for the full burst of the tempest. I am not so much of a weather prophet, but the clouds look to me mostly like wind clouds. It may be a big blow, but I have not the water in me to see the end of the Battle of Creeds. I am every day asked what I think about it. I want to make it so plain this morning what I think that no one will ever ask again.

Let those who are jurymen in the case, I mean those who are diligent ecclesiastical courts, have the questions put directly to the witnesses. Give me the facts. Let the rest of us keep out. The most damaging thing on earth is religious controversy. No one ever comes out of it as good a man as he goes in. Some of the ministers, in all denominations, who, before the present acerbity were good and useful, now seem almost swearing men, and a few others who were pious, and was about ready to give up rubber boots when he hit upon the plan for drying shown in the illustrations. A stout wire is bent as shown, with loops large enough to admit the boot laces. There is a hook at the back to hold the wire in place when put over the

stovepipe. The boots are thus out of the way, and when a fire is kept over night they are perfectly dry and warm in the morning.—*Rural New Yorker*.

Hints to Housekeepers.
It is said that scalds may be cured by applying a coating of flowers of sulphur to the afflicted limb. Corns should be much used for picture frames. It should not be more than half an inch in diameter, except for large pictures. Hemp and manilla are also used; but hemp is better, for it is smooth. A good plan for keeping butter cool and sweet in summer is to fill a box with sand to within an inch or two of the top; sink the butter jars in the sand, and thoroughly wet the sand with cold water. Cover the box air-tight. The box may be kept in the kitchen. For tender feet, take two quarts of cold water and add one tablespoonful of bay rum and two tablespoonfuls of ammonia. The feet should be soaked in this for ten minutes, throwing the water upward to the knees. Rub dry with crash towel, and the tired feeling will be gone. A useful cement for mending earthen or stone jars, stopping leaks in the seams of tin pans or iron kettles, or tightening loose joints of iron or wood, is made by mixing litarge and glycerine to a thick cream. This will cure acid heat and cold, if the article is not used until the cement has hardened. MACARONI should be used much more than it is. It is a very good substitute for potatoes when that vegetable is scarce and high, as it is this year. Many physicians object seriously to the use of old potatoes after they have begun to sprout, and on their own tables use macaroni instead. The simple ways of preparing this dish everybody knows. RATTAN and willow chairs should be cleared, like straw matting, with salt and water. First thoroughly remove the dirt. Then wring a clean cloth out of salt and water, rubbing chair or matting dry with the other hand as you go on, or at any rate, as quickly as you can, so that it may retain none of the moisture.

These brethren I notice always open their violent meetings with prayer before devouring each other, thus saying grace before meat. They have a moral hydrophobia that makes us think they have taken a dog by the ears. They never take the time to say a word of prayer with such zest as since the Briggs and Newton and MacQuary and Bridgman and Brooks questions got into full swing. May the rams of the sheepfold soon have their horns sawed off. Before the controversies are settled a good many ministers will be crying out, "Give us a little realism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago.

This trouble throughout Christendom was directly caused by the doctrine of Calvinism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago. This trouble throughout Christendom was directly caused by the doctrine of Calvinism, but landed into practical infidelity, and others, through what they call conservatism, will shrink up into bigots tight and hard as the mummies of Egypt which got through their controversies three thousand years ago.

So Satan rose one day upon his throne and said, "Ye powers of darkness, hear!" And all up and down the caverns the cry went, "Hail, Satan!" Satan said, "I will be that American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. It must either be demolished or crippled, or the first thing you know they will have all nations brought to God. Apollony the Younger! You go up to Andover and get the Professor to discuss whether the hells can be saved without the Gospel. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured. Divert them from the work of missions and get them in angry convention in a room at Young's hotel, Boston, and by the time they adjourn the cause of Foreign Missions will be gloriously and magnificently injured.

Every twenty-four hours 1,140 trains rush past the tower of the Pennsylvanian, and the railroad on Filbert street, Philadelphia, a record that can be equaled by no other point on the globe.