

bounds the above margin leaves ample room for profit, and we have no doubt our farmers will assent to the proposition when we say, that rearing lambs for the butcher, taken in connection with the fleece of the dam, is a profitable employment where the soil and other circumstances render it available. There are other pecuniary considerations worthy of note in this connection, viz., the rapidity with which a return is obtained, and the regular annual period of its receipts. In the rearing of horses, for instance, several years must be awaited for a full development of the animal, and the interest of the money lost through all the intervening time. Again, the individual instances of casualty and loss will not be so severe. There is a wide difference for instance in the loss, say of half a dozen sheep at three dollars each, and that of a valuable colt worth two hundred. Other considerations might be mentioned equally cogent, but with the above suggestions, we leave the subject at present to the considerations of our readers.—*Exchange.*

For the New England Farmer.

BUMP'S PATENT ATMOSPHERIC AT- TEMPERING CHURN.

The inquiry in the *Farmer* respecting this invention, by a correspondent from Fitchburg, has prompted a few thoughts which may be of interest to those who have not yet been victimized by it. I have little to say in direct reply to that inquiry. A neighbor of mine, who has tested it to some extent, is of the opinion that it is easy to operate, but requires considerable time to produce butter. It may or may not be an article worth possessing. Let those who have been so fortunate as to possess it, and have given it a fair trial, judge of its merit and give us their decision through the columns of this paper. I propose to speak of the manner in which it has been introduced to many of the farmers of Worcester county, with whom I have conversed, and who invariably set down the churn as a humbug, and the agent who brought it to their notice as a swindler. This agent commenced operations in the fall of 1862, and during the last winter and spring canvassed all the best farming towns in the county. His plan of operation was something like the following: Upon arriving in town he inquired who kept the largest dairies, and having obtained the names of such, first applied to the most credulous and presented his cause, describing the construction and action of the churn, and claiming for it a great superiority over all churns now in use, or ever to be invented. It was something which needed only to be seen to be admired, any one who should once witness its operation would be considered decidedly idiotic if he did not throw away his old churn and purchase the wonderful invention. All the farmers in town would want one of those churns, and he was willing to dispose of the right to sell it to them for sixty dollars. He proposed to divide the stock into twelve shares of five dollars each, and having formed a club of twelve persons to give each a certificate entitling him to one share in the right to make, sell and use the churn in that town. If the person selected for the first victim was sufficiently credulous to drink in the lubricating words of the stranger, as freely as the ground drinks in water, he, of course, passed over the V, and received his cer-

tificate; or if the ready cash was not at hand his note was equally acceptable. But if timorous and unwilling to be the first to subscribe to a prospective fortune, he need only promise to take a share if Squire B. did so, and the scheme was initiated. Squire B. was next approached and his name obtained at any sacrifice. If he could not be led to see the value of five dollars in the patent, four would be accepted, or if he were peculiarly obstinate an old churn would be taken in exchange, and at a price which would reduce the cost of the patent to so small a figure that, for the sake of encouraging a progressive enterprise, he would make the venture. I have even known an instance where a suspicious deacon, the president of the farmers' club, received his certificate without paying anything whatever. Having obtained the names and influence of two or three leading citizens it was not difficult in any town to complete the club at some price, and collect from forty to fifty dollars in cash and notes in a short time. The notes were usually disposed of to some person in town at a considerable discount, and the stranger made his exit, promising to forward the churns immediately. The farmers waited anxiously until the time appointed for their appearing, but they did not come. Days and weeks passed, and still they were not; they began to mention the matter to each other, and were surprised to find that such a variety of prices had been paid and that they differed in their ideas of what they were to receive. Some supposed that in buying the patent they had also secured a churn for their own use. But a few of the wiser sort had probed the matter deeper, and understood that the five dollars secured only the patent right and that the churn, *de facto*, must be paid for at the cost of manufacture. They wrote to the agent in regard to the delay and were informed in reply that in consequence of a rise in materials the churn could not be furnished at the price agreed upon, and they would not be forwarded until he received the advanced price.

That the goods were a different thing from the patent was now evident to all. I am told that in some towns the matter has been followed up until the churns were furnished at the price agreed upon, although the farmers were obliged to pay the cost of transportation, and sometimes to take the goods in a damaged condition. But in most places the people had not sufficient confidence in the agent to place any additional funds in his hands, and consequently have remained as well satisfied as they could with the possession of the *patent* and—their old churn.

I am not disposed to dwell upon the details of this interesting transaction, but a passing comment may not be out of place. Every operation of this sort leaves behind it a feeling of bitterness prejudicial to the introduction of improvements. The generality of people do not use as much discrimination as they ought. Why should an intelligent farmer, who ought to have opinions of his own and to weigh every matter in the balance of his own good judgment before making a decision, sit, spell-bound, in his hay field and listen to the syren song of some pretender who has obtained possession of a few nice words of extraordinary size, and by long practice has acquired a tact for rolling them off his oily tongue with the speed of an express train? There is a class of

men who are always anxious to get of every novelty that is presented, and who have faith to believe that each new invention is pregnant with great riches. They dream of wealth while under the soporific influence of the loquacious agent, and in their deceptive ecstasy can almost imagine themselves the prototypes of the patriarch Kilmansegg, whose good fortune is described in a humorous poem by Thomas Hood, from which the following is an extract :

"Tradition said he feathered his nest
Through an agricultural interest
In the golden age of farming ;
When golden eggs were laid by the geese,
And Colchian sheep wore a golden fleece,
And golden pippins—the sterling kind
Of Hesperus—now so hard to find—
Made horticulture quite charming.

"Moreover, he had a golden ass,
Sometimes at stall, and sometimes at grass,
That was worth his own weight in money—
And a golden hive, on a golden bank,
Where golden bees, by alchemical frank,
Gathered gold instead of honey."

I have before me a pamphlet published in 1848, professing to disclose a new method of making manure. It claims to show how to convert almost everything on the farm into a rich fertilizing compost, which costs next to nothing and is capable of being increased to an unlimited extent. The system is somewhat complicated, and requires the building of vats, drains and other appurtenances.

This pamphlet cost the owner five dollars, and I doubt whether he ever read it through ; and although a goodly number of farmers purchased the right, I have not been able to find, after the lapse of fifteen years, a single farm where this method was applied. But, says one, I obtained some good ideas from Bomer's Method. No doubt of it, but would you not have obtained more information for the money if it had been invested in standard agricultural books ?

A few years ago a new variety of corn was hawked about the country at a ninepence per ear, which was recommended to yield several hundred bushels to the acre. Those who tested it found themselves in possession of a large supply of *green corn* at harvest time, but very little of the full and ripe corn. A marvelous potato appeared soon after, which was too costly to be sold by the bushel, and therefore was disposed of at a certain price *per eye*. The only advantage ever derived from it was the opening of the eyes of those who bought it.

Many farmers have been deceived by the agents of irresponsible nurserymen, who, with a beautiful picture-book and a smooth tongue, have sponged a large order from them, and then forwarded such trash as a nurseryman at all anxious for his reputation would have discarded from his grounds as worthless. And rather than be called *mean* by the cheeky agent they have paid the bill and set the trees. How much better to take a day's time and visit the grounds of some responsible nurseryman and make the selection yourself, and know for a certainty that you have secured the varieties which you desired, and which the labels on the trees represent them to be.

It is not the intention of the writer by these remarks to throw out the impression that *strangers* are always imposters. Far from it. In many business transactions it is necessary to deal with

strangers, and as great a benefit may be received from a stranger as from a fellow-townsmen. But it is well to remember, that a new man with a new subject for discussion has a decided advantage in his favor. By constant study he has learned how to present *his* side of the subject in the most favorable light possible. And as the same objections will naturally arise in the minds of different people from hearing the same story told in the same manner, he has learned how to answer or evade every objection that is raised. Let a company of farmers discuss the same subject among themselves and they would be quite likely to arrive at a correct conclusion.

Be suspicious of those who, by much talking, are determined to make you yield,—who flatter your pride, and who propose to give more than a dollar's worth for a dollar. Let no one say that, because he has once been deceived, he will never test anything that is new. He ought to receive new things with a charitable and an investigating spirit, but with discrimination also. VIATOR.

For the New England Farmer.

WHAT ARE GOOD COWS ?

MR. EDITOR:—I noticed in your issue of Dec. 19th, an article in which some one says he had a brother in York State, who had two cows from which a half-ton of butter was made annually, for several years, besides supporting a family of three persons, together with all their company, so far as butter and milk is concerned, and made 400 lbs. of pork ! These cows are called only good, not extra, and no grain in their feed.

Up here among the granite mountains we think that if the cows are not extra the story is. Furthermore, these cows are said to have been kept on a five-acre pasture, together with a horse, a yearling or two, and an indefinite number of calves, while a portion of the grass goes to seed, and is not fed short in the fall. I do not say I think that is a tiptop pasture, for it may lie spread out in some rich valley. But I do say I wish I owned one like it for a calf pasture.

Honestly, I have no doubt but they have fine cows in York State, and very rich land, cultivated in the best manner. But if the gentleman who is the owner of the cows and the five-acre pasture in question would be kind enough to tell us the precise number of cattle he kept in said pasture, and what amount of fodder, corn, carrots, ruta bagas, or other green feed, the same received, how many months they were stabled, &c., and what a good cow will do there, with ordinary treatment, I shall be better able to form a correct estimate of the value of his pasture, and also of what value the extra kindness is in the dairy line.

Goshen, N. H., 1863.

J. M.

HOW TO CATCH SHEEP.—Never seize them by the wool on the back. It hurts them exceedingly, and in some cases has been known to kill them, particularly in hot weather, when they are large and fat. The best way is to avoid the wool altogether. Accustom yourself to catch them by their hind leg, or, what is still better, by the neck, placing one hand under the jaws, and the other just back of the ears. By lifting the head in this manner, a child may hold almost any sheep, without danger to the animal or himself.