[illegible] Advertiser.

[illegible] Editor.

Thursday, May 8, 1873.

The Farm and Dairy.

[illegible] It [illegible] idealists [illegible] is [illegible] reality, submerged [illegible] of hard, real facts. The [illegible] pastoral life of which poets have [illegible] and which is associated with life on the farm in the minds of many persons, lacks the flavor, when tasted, that [illegible] would have anticipated. [illegible] North the work of April must be done in May. But little of the Spring work has been done. The ground must be plowed, the seed sown, the planting done. Pell mell, the labor of two months must be crowded into one. The farmer who would have [illegible] two acres this, where he planted one last year, finds it impracticable. Out of the long, dreary [illegible] which he has been [illegible] the past winter, he emerges with his hands tied. The plans he had made cannot be wrought out; there is no time. The farmer's sun will soon be here. The seeding must [illegible] The forces at his command must be exerted to the utmost. From early dawn till late at night there must [illegible] from toil. He has no time to stop to contemplate the wonderful [illegible] which nature is working for him. He looks upon them as the factory girl looks upon the machinery she controls, and by controling which she earns her daily bread. He has no time to stop to consider the marvelous forces which operate to bring him fruition for his labor. The sweet, spring air, the warbling of birds, the bursting buds, the springing grass, the [illegible] of nature, which has [illegible] or slumbering, only [illegible] quicken his steps, and [illegible] to sow the seed which produces the harvest. [illegible] to which farmers are invited this year—this is the [illegible] of the sentiment and poetry [illegible] The Spring's work must be done if the harvest is to be reaped. The realistic part of life must be suffered before the idealistic part can be enjoyed. The prose precedes [illegible] is no need to complain or for depression. Sadness [illegible] are equally sure. The labor of the one is always crowned by the glory of the other. Convalescence follows suffering. Sunshine breaks [illegible] A clear sky follows a storm. We do not know that any overwrought farmer will find comfort in or derive courage from these words. But they are written that we may show our appreciation of the difficulties, discouragements, and duties which this May Day of 1873 brings, and our faith in the [illegible] which will follow the discharge of such duties.

Value of Beets for Cattle Food.

The chemists of this country and those of Europe have often analyzed almost every kind of cattle food for the purpose of ascertaining the nutritive value of each one contained. Taking good meadow hay as the standard by which all other kinds of cattle food is compared, I find that some of the chemists find one pound of hay equal to about [illegible] and one-half pounds of beets, and and that others find three and one-half pounds of beets equal to one of hay. Now [illegible] decide when doctors disagree? Without making a decision let us add the two extremes together, which will amount to ten and one-quarter. This divided by two, the number of doctors, gives us five and one-eighth pounds of beets as a nutritive equivalent for one pound of hay. Taking this estimate as a correct one, if [illegible] and seven mills per bushel. But the value here given is the nutritive value alone, without estimating the advantages derived from their use in other respects. From experiments made in feeding beets, their practical value has been made to range from 13 to 25 cents per bushel, with hay at $20 per ton. An exact estimate of the practical value of beets for cattle is a difficult [illegible] is now, and ever will be hid from mortal ken. The improved condition of the cow, (when fed to cows during winter,) her increased [illegible] during the entire [illegible] to sickness and diseases which high feeding with one of the different kinds of grain [illegible] of life, [illegible] satisfaction and perfect [illegible] which so plainly manifest [illegible] her daily rations of [illegible] and every one legitimate items to be taken into the account in estimating the actual value of beets as used for dairy stock.

After carefully looking at the subject in all its bearings, so far as my limited [illegible] given me opportunity to [illegible] to the conclusion that beets for cattle food are well worth [illegible] cents per bushel as good hay [illegible] without taking into consideration the increased value [illegible] and that the average [illegible] with every item of [illegible] need not exceed eight [illegible] [illegible]

Sabbath Reading.

Edited and conducted by Rev. F. P. [illegible], Rev. D. D. Cook, and Rev. Benjamin Russell.

Popular Amusements.

Sketch of a Sermon preached by Rev. D. D. Cook, in the M. E. Church, Andover. [illegible]

Among the various problems of the day to be solved, none require more consideration and care than amusements and what their nature and character shall be. Dangers unthought of in the early period of the Christian Church, have followed the triumphs of the gospel down to the present hour.

In the first century the distinction between Christianity and Heathenism was clearly defined. No broad flowing river formed the boundary of either bank, freighted with immortal souls, as we fear it now is, but a chasm deep and wide separated the one from the other; Jew from Gentile. This line of distinction was visible with our Puritan fathers. Stern and rigid in their moral requirements, they earnestly sought to banish everything of a worldly nature from their religion.

But the scene now is greatly changed. The line of distinction between the church and the world is very faint, and what has served most powerfully to unite these two forces? We hold that a thirst or desire for recreation and amusement has been the great cause of so much apathy and moral insensibility among Christians. Therefore let us notice some objections to the popular amusements of the day, and while we do so, let us feel that we are standing by the grave of character and hopes, and strive to heed the monitory voice that issues from it charging ourselves to beware how we tread in the footsteps of the fallen and ruined. It is assumed by many that we have propensities that cannot be gratified or find scope but in amusements. Where, say they, can we find mirth and cheer but amid scenes of gaiety or pleasure. We answer, the world is wide enough to afford scope for the most diversified faculties of the human mind, and allow play for the gushing emotions that spring from the bouyant heart which will at the same time yield fruits that will crown the brow of fellow mortals with blessings, and send back to us the rich benediction of an approving God. Some say that their object in seeking amusement is to kill time which is so tardy in its movements with them. This most precious boon from heaven, we will require it all in which to prepare for a long eternity. Time is a broad field, in which we sow seeds that will be harvested on the still broader fields of eternity.

The correct idea of recreation should not be to obtain mere enjoyment or pleasure, or to kill time; but to renew, restore, and invigorate the exhausted energies of body and mind, that we may be better prepared for the coming duties of life. Our amusements should not be detrimental to our health. God demands at our hands a wise and faithful use of all the elements of activity and powers with which He has been pleased to endow us as rational beings. Without health we are unable to meet life's responsibilities. Many of the fashionable amusements of the day, by their very nature are designed to undermine and ruin health, and induce premature decay and death. Can you doubt this when the hours that God has ordained for repose are turned into revelry, gluttony, and exposure. Do you wonder that the present generation is unable to endure what the former did? Dancing lacks the element of recreation. It is generally practiced in confined atmosphere, at late hours, and the usual style of dress; the sudden transition from the heated room to the cool night air is not safe; as many early deaths do testify. The excitement exhausts the vital powers instead of invigorating them. For our own part we have preached quite too many funeral sermons of young people, who have lost their lives from exposure at balls, not to know that the direct tendency is to impair health, if not to destroy life. Jehovah says, "Thou shalt not kill." Alas, how many have bid defiance to this command of God, by indulging in those things which were a violation of natures' laws, and thus have committed suicide.

We object to many of the popular amusements of the day, because they are too expensive. Money is power, and, says Solomon, answereth for all things. It may be used to better advantage in feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, healing the sick, teaching the ignorant, and reclaiming the wanderers. He that squanders money throws away one important element of power that God has given him to do good, and He will not hold him guiltless when he shall come to discern between the righteous and the wicked. The time and money consumed in connection with the dance is enormous with the most of young men, it does not amount in time and money to much less than from $75 to $100 per year, which could be employed to better advantage in educational pursuits.

We object to these amusements because they do not refine and inform the mind, but generally debase and contaminate the soul. Is there anything elevating or refining in the dance or theater? What did the sober Pagans say? They all pronounced them to be the schools of vice. They tell us that they excite the passions, pervert the use of them, and consequently they are dangerous to the morals. In the primitive church both players and play-goers were debarred the rights of the christian sacraments, and so in many modern churches. Archibishop Tillotson pronounces the play-house to be the Devil's chapel—a nursery of [illegible] and vice—a recreation [illegible] to be allowed among [illegible] christian people.

(To be continued.)

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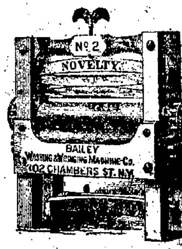

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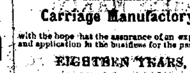

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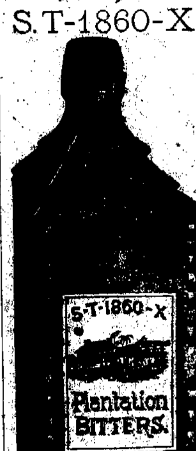

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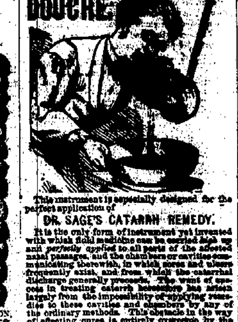

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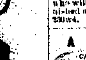

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