

POETRY.

Lizette.

By ROSE TERRY COOKE.

Good-bye, rose! Perfumed now
By the wind, and the sun;
Crisp leaves, and the golden glow
Of the autumn sun;
From the meadow breathe the bay:
On the mountain top the gray;
Beside the stream the white;
In the odorous clime.

Summer comes and summer flies,
Autumn fills the solemn skies;
O'er his hills the days are
Clouds in glory;
Then the snow-clothes a shroud fall
On our hearts and the cold
Will we have the blizzard's fall
Tell the spring's new story.

Sweet, I am not, for in thee
In perpetual spring shall be;
In thy dear eyes I see
New and blossoming;
On thy lips I see roses grow;
New and blossoming;
Baby songs, most bird-like, flow
From my blushing's bloom.

These the flowers cannot fade,
Sweetest, quivering little maid;
Through about which they played
Every season;
Through about which they played
Every season;
Through about which they played
Every season;

Chipping cricket on my heart,
Making water gay with mirth,
Brightening all the clouded earth
With its mirth;
Now let storm and tempest cry,
Now let winds howl and rain;
Still the spring smile sweet and shy
In my blushing's bloom.

—Harper's Bazar.

THE FARM AND HOUSEHOLD.

The Protection of Sheep.

Wouldst thou not be glad to have the sly, rascally sheep-stealer, come by some notable chance?—
Shakespeare.

Questions involving the welfare of a state, or the happiness of a community, are frequently decided by the popular voice without the slightest regard to either; and it is not uncommon for the decision to rest wholly upon the passions or prejudices, or personal animosities of the individuals who are called upon to decide.

Statistics however overwhelming, have not a feather's weight; men cease to be influenced by reason and common sense; principles are ignored, and in the very vacuum produced by the absence of these good qualities, all motive power seems to originate. So

has been hitherto in this state, whenever the question of protecting sheep against the ravages of dogs has been earnestly mooted. Although farmers themselves are not always united upon the question, they usually make up the majority in favor of the measure; while the large towns and cities furnish the persons who almost uniformly array themselves in opposition. It is unfortunate in such a case, that there should be this diversity of opinion, especially when there is really no divided interest, when there can be but one consideration upon which a decision should rest; and that is the common good.

In the discussion and decision of such questions, legislators are most certainly out of place, who allow personal considerations or in crests to control their public acts, and who rest subjects of consequence to the state, not as statesmen or lawgivers, but as partisans or politicians. In these days when the antagonism between labor and capital, between town and country, is not only apparent but sharply defined, men need all possible encouragement to induce them to engage in or remain in agriculture. It indicates a lack of intelligence or prudence at least, to title with questions which demand and receive the attention of grave and wise men. Upon no other measure ever presented for legislative action in this state, has the mere politician conducted a discussion in so offensive and irritating a manner, or in a way so well calculated to create and continue the existence of class distinctions. For this reason, it is high time that, when again submitted to public consideration, the question should go upon its merits.

So far as the future is concerned, the prosperity of agriculture in Maine depends mainly upon the dairy, the orchard, the hay crop, and sheep husbandry; and the latter represents a two-fold claim for public recognition on account of its intimate relation to the manufacturing interest. The farmer who sells his crops for a fair equivalent does well, but he does much better, when he supplies the mechanic who has established some branch of productive industry in his immediate vicinity. Two long Maine has been content to be the mere producer of raw material, and has suffered others by the addition of skilled labor, to reap the richer reward of the manufacturer. Let the productive capacities of the soil, the unrivaled forces that lie idle in our water-power, and the facilities for transportation afforded by being on the grand high seas, be harmoniously adjusted and brought into requisition; and the motto of the state will therefore cease to be an idle boast. For our own part we must say that in our cast of arms, the deer under the greenwood tree saves more of the days of old Robin Hood than all the many merrits of a pleasurable life, than all the times of cities and corporations and colleges; it might have been appropriate for the hunting days of the Penobscot and Penikese, and so perhaps would the red man take kindly to the language, from the open air specimens at Oxbow. Better the sheep, when once we are at arms, and on our rocky ridges, in place of the wild deer, shall stand the sheep with fleece of wool and "feet of gold."

Whenever sheep are no longer hunted and harried in the "silence of the laws," but have tattle rights which even the lean and hungry bound and the cur of dog degree are content to respect, the people at large will share in their improved condition. Without intending to enter upon a discussion on morals, we may say that we are inclined to believe that no decent domestic animal can be depressed below his normal condition, without dragging down in some degree some wing of the human race with him.

Simply on economic grounds, sheep are entitled to large consideration; counting as they do the coarse, cheap, and often too substantial food. How much of the earth's surface, producing a scanty growth on hill and slope, secure from the attack of plow or harrow, and almost inaccessible to the foot of man, seems to be admirably adapted for almost designed for the habitation of these footed climbers. And then through the long months of winter, what a skillful and successful agency is here secured, for transmuting the sedge and juicy grasses of the meadow into the woolly and valuable fleeces of the sheep. For keeping down, and thus destroying the wild growth of nature; for restoring the fertility of exhausted lands; and for a continual curement of good soils, there is nothing so sure as sheep husbandry.

We make no special allusion to wool, although in value and importance to the agricultural and commercial world, this part of the animal growth far transcends all the rest. One who is familiar with the statistics, or with the statistics of a census, or with the statistics of commerce, knows how much consequence attached to this single product. Enough for our present purpose, to present a few outlines of this subject, and suggest to thoughtful minds a careful investigation of its merits. As a specimen, however, of what might be done were we to consider ourselves with the army, we content ourselves with the statement, that the returns of an excellent sheep prove that the damage done to sheep by dogs in that state for the term of ten years, was more than one million of dollars; and the estimated loss in the United States each year, exceeds two millions. A discussion of this subject does not necessarily involve a declaration of war against dogs; rather it is a pacific attempt to bring about a cessation of hostilities on their part; and also rightly regarded, a movement in this direction is one for the improvement of the race. The direct result of repressive legislation is to encourage the ownership of valuable animals, and to compel the owner to exercise the same care and vigilance, which are usually only the real emblems—thus giving an excellent example of the "fencing of the fittest."

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