

Early Agricultural Journalism

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EARLY AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISM.

One of the editorial ventures now almost forgotten is that of *The Western Farmer & Gardener* as it appeared with the head, "Indianapolis, Ind., edited by Henry Ward Beecher, Indianapolis, Edward J. Hooper, Cincinnati. S. V. B. Noel, Publisher and Printer." Under date of January 1, 1846, Indianapolis, Mr. Beecher editorially says:

The American Farmer, begun at Baltimore in 1819, was the first agricultural paper in the United States. It completed fifteen volumes and in 1834 was succeeded by the Farmer and Gardener, the original title from which there have been so many patronymics. These changes have been similarly acted over at the West. Mr. E. J. Hooper, we believe, issued one Volume of the Western Farmer in 1839. In 1840 the title was changed to Western Farmer and Gardener; and the paper was continued until the summer of 1845, when it was temporarily suspended on account of the health of its editor. The Indiana Farmer and Gardener was issued at the beginning of the year 1845. The name of the State was affixed, both to indicate its locality and to distinguish our paper from the paper at Baltimore and from the Western Farmer and Gardener, at Cincinnati. Another change has now been completed. Our friend, Mr. Hooper, has suddenly found himself in the lap of fortune; and his golden cares (strange cares for an editor!) have waxed apace and an arrangement has been made to unite the Indiana, and the Western Farmer and Gardener. The paper will be published in Indianapolis and issued simultaneously at Cincinnati and at Indianapolis.

Among interesting matters in this volume, which has reached the Historical Department, are contributions of Dr. J. T. Plummer, of Richmond, Ind., setting out the weather history of that locality from 1833; strictures against Mr. Beecher's spelling "acre" *a-k-e-r*, from many critics; an illustration of Cook's reaper, 1845; communications by Nicholas Longworth, Thomas K. Beecher and others on timely topics. A fact dealt with in exclamation by Mr. Beecher is that a single forwarding company had shipped from two Indiana counties, Decatur and Bartholomew, eighteen hundred dozen (21,600) quails which were netted during the winter of 1844, and that the next winter being dry, was still more favorable, though the wet season for nesting had probably caused fewer of the birds to come into the market.

THE WASHINGTON UNION says that by 1st July, the Post-office Department will be able to furnish the larger Postoffices with stamps for individuals who may wish to pay regularly in advance—thus giving them an opportunity of depositing their papers or letters in the box at any hour.—*Keokuk Register*, July 3, 1847.

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