Cottage Economy
By William Cobbett (1763-1835)

How can you tell when your pig is fat enough? Why should you never buy mustard? What’s wrong with eating potatoes? Which is better, beer or tea? And what type of straw makes the best bonnets? William Cobbett is the man to ask. Here is his book of practical advice to the rural labouring ‘cottager’ (first published as a part-work in 1821-22), the precursor in many ways to the handbooks on self-sufficiency that today entice so many city-dwellers.

A champion of the rural working class at a time of huge social and industrial change, a radical politician and a prolific writer, Cobbett is opinionated, passionate and enlightening, making ‘Cottage Economy’ a fascinating and entertaining window on daily life for the smallholders of his day, and still inspirational, almost 200 years later, to those who seek ‘a good living’ as the foundation of happiness. (Introduction by Philippa)


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