

A VALUABLE HINT FOR FARMERS.

The celebrated Mr. Robert Bakewell, of Dishly, Leicestershire, and the founder of New Leicester sheep, used to tell an anecdote, with exceeding high glee, of a farmer, not only of the olden school, but of the golden times. The farmer, who owned and occupied 1,000 acres of land, had three daughters. When his eldest daughter married, he gave her one quarter of his land for her portion, but no money; and he found, by a little more speed and a little better management, the produce of his farm did not decrease. When his second daughter married, he gave her one-third of the remaining land for her portion, but no money. He then set to work, and began to grub up his furze and fern, and ploughed up what he called his poor, dry, furze land, even when the furze covered, in some closes, nearly half the land. After giving half his land away to two of his daughters, to his great surprise he found that the produce increased; he made more money because his new broken-up furze land brought excessive crops, and at the same time he farmed the whole of his land better, for he employed three times more labourers upon it; he rose two hours sooner in the morning; had no more dead fallows once in three years; instead of which he got two green crops in one year, and ate them upon the land. A garden never requires a dead fallow. But the great advantage was, that he had got the same money to manage 500 acres as he had to manage 1,000 acres; therefore, he laid out double the money upon the land. When his third and last daughter married, he gave her 250 acres, or half what remained, for her portion, and no money. He then found that he had the same money to farm one quarter of the land as he had at first to farm the whole. He began to ask himself a few questions, and set his wits to work how he was to make as much of 250 as he had done of 1,000 acres. He then paid off his bailiff, who weighed 20 stone! rose with the larks in the long days, and went to bed with the lamb; he got as much more work done for his money; he made his servants, labourers, and horses, move faster; broke them from their snail's pace; and found that the eye of the master quickened the pace of the servant. He saw the beginning and ending of everything; and to his servants and labourers, instead of saying, "Go and do it," he said to them, "Let us go, my boys, and do it." Between come and go he soon found out a great difference. He grubbed up the whole of his furze and ferns, and then ploughed the whole of his poor, grass land up, and converted a great deal of corn into meat for the sake of the manure, and he preserved his black water (the essence of manure); cut his hedges down, which had not been plashed for forty or fifty years; straightened his zig-zag fences; cut his water-courses straight, and gained a deal of land by doing so; made dams and sluices, and irrigated all the land he could; he grubbed up

many of his hedges and borders covered with bushes, in some places from 10 to 14 yards in width, some more in his small closes, some not wider than streets; and threw three, four, five, and six closes into one. He found out that instead of growing white-thorn hedges and haws to feed foreign birds in the winter, he could grow food for man instead of migratory birds. After all this improvement, he grew more, and made more of 250 acres than he did from 1,000; at the same time he found out that half of England at that time was not cultivated, from the want of means to cultivate it with. I let him rams, and sold him long-horned bulls (said Mr. Bakewell) and told him the real value of labour, both indoors and out, and what ought to be done with a certain number of men, oxen, and horses, within a given time. I taught him to sow less and plough better; that there were limits and measures to all things; and that the husbandman ought to be stronger than the farmer. I told him how to make hot land colder, and cold land hotter, light land stiffer, and stiff land lighter. I soon caused him to shake off all his old deep-rooted prejudices, and I grafted new ones in their places. I told him not to breed inferior cattle, sheep, or horses, but the best of each kind, for the best consumed no more than the worst. My friend became a new man in his old age, and died rich.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

IRISH POOR LAW COMMISSIONERS.

"The Commissioners for administering the laws for relief of the poor in Ireland, having addressed a letter, dated 13th October, No. 56225, to the Clogheen Board of Guardians, requesting a detailed statement of their plan of operations in instructing the boys in agriculture and cultivating the land at Fincurry, it was referred to the Visiting Committee, who have prepared the following reply.

"About the commencement of the present year, the Clogheen Board of Guardians took the additional workhouse at Fincurry, for the double purpose of employing the boys in cultivating 12 Irish acres of land attached thereto, and affording additional workhouse accommodation, which it is capable of doing, to the extent of about 600 persons.

"The present agricultural teacher was engaged on the 10th of April, and since then the farm operations have been performed exclusively by the boys.

"On the 7th of July an assistant teacher was appointed, when the boys were formed into two equal divisions. The boys in one division attend school with the literary teachers in the forenoon, and go out to work in the afternoon; those in the other division work in the forenoon and attend school in the afternoon—each division exchanging hours with the other every alternate week. By