

"LINDENBANK."

The following reasons decided my choice: 1. The place is a buck, or series of banks, a beautiful brook meandering through it, and the river Speed skirting the rear. 2. The linden is a predominating tree on the place. There are some lovely clumps on the front forming quite a feature. Moreover, this is next to the maple, perhaps the finest of the native shade-trees. It is a favorite of mine. Finally, it has the merit of use, as well as beauty. Its blossoms are, next to the white clover, the best honey blossoms we have. 3. A third reason has a dash of sentiment in it, perhaps. The well-known line of poetry,

"On Linden, when the sun was low,"

suggests the period at which my proprietorship commenced, the sun of life being on the descent in the western heavens. I recommend my brother farmers to name their places, and to do so on some principle that admits of being explained and justified. Then the name will wear and continue to be satisfactory.

When an agricultural editor botakes himself to practical farming, he becomes a "shining mark" for the shafts of criticism. It is one thing to farm on paper, and quite another thing to farm on the land itself. He is pretty sure to be well watched to see if his preaching and practice harmonize.

Fully aware of this, I was not surprised when a Scotch farmer, driving by as I was surveying the front of my domain with an eye to fence improvement, pulled up his horses, and entered into the following colloquy: "You've bote oot this place, I hear?" "Yes." "Gan to farm it yersel'?" "Yes." "Ye're ane o' ther scientefic men?" with a sort of sneer; "ye edited the *Canadian Farmer* lang syne?" "Yes." "Weel, we'll see what ye mak o' it," evidently with the idea that I should not make much of it. In like manner, a thorough farmer of the old English school stopped and enquired, "Will this be a model or an experimental farm, now you've got it?" "It will certainly be an experimental farm," I replied, "and I shall try hard to make it a model one." "I give you two years to be sick of it," exclaimed a third, who belongs to the class of "ne'er-do-well," slipshod farmers, who are always complaining of their business.

My farm having been rented for a number of years, was and is yet, in a somewhat impoverished condition. It was not reduced so low as many in like circumstances; owing to the vigilance of the landlord, who bound his tenants to sell no straw off the place, and to grow each year ten acres of roots. He reserved a room in the house, and having leisure, owing to his retirement from practical farming, devoted considerable time to the oversight of the place, in order to secure fulfilment of the conditions of the lease. Nevertheless, it was in such a state as to force an earnest consideration of the question,

HOW TO ENRICH POOR LAND.

The most effectual way of doing this, no

doubt, is to put plenty of manure into it. But this is very much like replying to the question, "how to enrich a poor man," by saying "give him plenty of money." Where the manure is to come from in the one case, and the cash in the other, is the very pinch of the difficulty. If there was a mountain of manure close to every poor farm, so that you could haul it on at the rate of fifty loads to the acre, as market gardeners do on small plots of ground, the case would be greatly simplified. But there are few 100-acre farms that yield more than a load of manure to the acre annually. The farmer who can dress a ten-acre field every year with ten loads of manure to the acre is doing pretty well, according to the current ideas. It will take some stock and no little care to do this year in and year out. No doubt with extreme economy of all fertilizing material, more than this might be done on every hundred-acre farm. But we have no facilities for making and saving manure to advantage. Probably fifty per cent. of it goes to waste in one way or another. This great leakage ought to be stopped. Everything that can be converted into plant food should be scraped up and hoarded with rigorous care. But supposing this to be done, it will only go a short way toward enriching a poor farm. A system of tillage must be pursued that will have an upward and improving tendency.

The first point to be aimed at is to get a large area of land into grass and clover. Less grain must be raised and more grass. If land will grow clover there is a direct road to enrichment, for clover will both yield a crop and furnish manure. The aftermath of clover plowed under the second year is equal in manurial value to ten loads of manure per acre. This great agricultural fact has been demonstrated by chemistry, and ought to be proclaimed on every hill-top, and throughout every valley of the land. Grass land pastured by stock, and especially by sheep, is in a way of growing better. A farm cannot but improve with ten acres manured and ten acres of pasture, or clover aftermath turned under every year. Next to more grass-farming I should be inclined to rank more sheep-farming. It is proverbial that the foot of sheep brings wealth. The fleece, the carcase, and the droppings are three sources of profit to the farmer from sheep-keeping. Root growing is another mode of enriching poor land. Carrots, mangels and turnips are valuable winter food for stock, enabling the farmer to keep more animals, and to make more and better manure. To stop waste is another important matter. I have referred to manurial waste, but this is only one of many directions in which economy is needed. Weed extermination is a most important remedial measure. How much fertility is annually thrown away in the maintenance of weeds! What will support a weed will support a useful plant. There is also great waste in the fence corners. If they are in grass how seldom is the trouble taken to mow and save