

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FARM.

If we were to judge by cases which we very often meet with, we would be led to form the conclusion that farming is certainly a wonderful trade—that it is, in fact the natural state of man, a state to which he must inevitably revert, no matter how little connection his previous training and habits may have had with the subject, provided he can “babble of green fields” and have “a taste for the country entirely his own.” Let him be brought up all his life within the smoky precincts of a city, familiar with farm produce only in the shape of a four pound loaf, or a joint of meat, still if he does possess, or fancy he possesses, “a taste for the country,” with sufficient means to permit the indulgence of such a taste, he is, forthwith, qualified, in his own opinion at least, in every respect to become a genuine clod-hopper. The blundering attempts of such men are, in general only provocative of laughter, whilst their example, unless, indeed, they are unfortunately placed in an influential position, exerts little or no influence on the real business of farming. In the latter case, indeed, they are positively injurious, inasmuch as from the respect due to their position, or from extrinsic causes, the vagaries which they dignify with the name of farming, are often apt to lead some into error, to create a disgust in the minds of others against the prosecution of the business in any degree whatever, and to cover with ridicule a profession of vast importance. Farming, like medicine, has its quacks, whose professional pretensions being loudly, unblushingly, and unremittingly proclaimed to the world, backed up as they often are by certain adventitious circumstances, acquire for a time a degree of importance to which they are by no means entitled but which, resting on no sure foundation, are soon exposed in all their weakness to the scorn of those experience has taught them to think and act in a different manner.

It is not, however, to such persons we would at present allude; for although these have but too often proved to be the real “pests of the farm,” still there are, even within the ranks of what we must call the practical men, many instances of insufficient qualifications for the important duties they have undertaken to perform. Perhaps one of the most essential points in farming is forethought. There are many who cannot see an inch beyond them, their powers of perception are confined to the narrow limits in which they stand for the moment, and farther than those limits their mental vision cannot by any means be brought to extend. Their minds can seize rapidly enough on any project which appears likely to be productive of immediate benefit, but they cannot by any process of ratiocination bring themselves to perceive the future results of any present movement. This obtuseness of their perceptive powers is the fertile source of innumerable errors, and prevents them from turning to their future advantage many circumstances which are calculated to be of advantage, but which they do not perceive to be such. For example, one man looks upon the reclamation of a tract of waste land as a hopeless measure; he understands just so much of it, as to know that a considerable immediate outlay is involved in the proceeding, and for that reason, he at once sets down the project as unattainable and absurd. Another individual, however, foresees that the outlay necessary to accomplish this object will, if properly conducted, be the means of returning him a profitable remuneration. He studies attentively every feature of the case; he foresees almost step by step every part of the necessary procedure to be taken; and he sets about his work in full confidence as to the result. But, although such a man may demonstrate the correctness of his views, it does not follow that his neighbour, who, possessing less forethought, had considered the undertaking as being only the means of throwing money away, until the effects produced convince him that his opinion was founded in error—it will not we say, always enable such a man to follow the example shown him with an equal degree of success. He may, indeed, attempt to imitate the process: in all probability he begins his operation in a proper manner, but some unexpected obstacle occurs which he cannot understand how to overcome; he overlooks some important step in his haste to arrive at final results, and he is obliged to abandon the undertaking in despair, in all probability attributing to what he calls *luck* on the part of his successful neighbour, what is due only to the exercise of judicious forethought, combined with perfect skill.

But the profitable exercise of this faculty is not confined to the case with which we illustrated our views. In the every day business of the farm, many opportunities arise where losses are incurred, simply from not looking forward to consequences, or from not being able to arrange mentally, everything which it is necessary to bear in mind, so as to arrive at a correct and judicious course of procedure. Now, in the apparently simple matter of setting a band of farm labourers to work, either in the general business of the