

rents raised too high'—that good culture is another name for much labour'—that 'great farmers are generally rich farmers.' By these methods he raised his rental to more thousands a-year than it was hundreds when he inherited the estate, and had enriched a numerous tenantry into the bargain. Swift, in his satirical 'Directions to Servants,' advises the steward 'to lend my lord his own money.' The bailiff of Lord Peterborough pulled down his master's house, sold the materials, and continued to charge him for repairs. The last case was peculiar; but for the steward to grow rich at the expense of an employer who neglected his own affairs was common enough. Mr. Coke was a conspicuous example of the benefit of the opposite practice, for he showed that no profession in the world was so lucrative as that of a landlord who devoted his life to the improvement of his property. The wealth, nevertheless, which accrued to himself was the smallest part of the gain. He was a national benefactor upon a mighty scale, and was the cause, directly and indirectly, of adding a countless mass of corn and cattle, of beef and mutton, bread and beer to the resources of the country.

No discovery, perhaps, in Agriculture was made by Mr. Coke; but he showed a surprising sagacity in singling out what was good in ideas which were not received by the farming public at large, in combining them into a system, and persevering in them until they prevailed. Young states, in his "Report on the Agriculture of Norfolk,"* which was published in 1804, that Mr. Coke had even then grown the invaluable Swedish turnip for several years with the greatest success, and used large quantities of purchased manure in the shape of rape-cake. Above all, he at that date drilled the whole of his crops, turnips included, and he was the prominent champion of this much opposed system, which is now universally adopted for the time and labour it saves, for the facility it affords for applying the manure directly to the seed, for keeping down weeds and stirring the soil by means of the horse-hoe, and for thinning out the crop with regularity and speed.

The Norfolk farmers, while attending to arable culture, had never turned their attention to improving their stock. One of Mr. Coke's most intelligent tenants said "that bones and offal, rather than meat, were the production of the best grass-lands in the county." A small number of Norfolk or Suffolk cows, good milkers but miserable graziers, were kept, and a flock of the black-faced, long-horned, Norfolk sheep—an active, bony, hardy animal, well suited to pick up a living on the wild bare heaths, and which gave a little wool every year, and a little mutton at the end of four or five. It is just fifty years since Mr. Coke said, in one of his annual Holkham speeches, "that a Norfolk flock had hitherto been considered as little more, in point of profit, than a dung-cart." He soon taught his tenants that, valuable as was manure, they had better keep animals which would at the same time make a return in flesh and fat. His own skill in the difficult art of judging of the qualities of stock was great, and he used to assist his neighbors in parcelling out the ewes to the rams according to the shapes of each, that the defects of one parent might, as much as possible, be remedied by the good points in the other. "I have seen him and the late Duke of Bedford," says Young, "put on a shepherd's smock, work all day, and not quit the business till darkness forced them to dinner."

(To be Continued.)

* Kent's Survey of the Agriculture of Norfolk was published in 1796; the admirable work of Young appeared in 1804; and in 1844 an able and elaborate report by Mr. R. N. Bacon, the editor of the "Norwich Mercury," gained the prize of the Royal Agricultural Society. These surveys, made at intervals, give an opportunity for comparing one period with another, and throw great light upon agricultural and social progress. They are to be classed among the best kinds of history.