

which every farmer must admit would be a great advantage. The reasons for the use of machines are—1st, All our corn crops come to maturity at present nearly at the same time. 2nd, Our country laborers are reduced in number. 3rd, There is now a much greater quantity of corn to cut down. 4th, Harvest work has become more expensive." A committee appointed by the central Society of Agriculture of the Seine-Inferieure to report on the subject, gave it as their verdict that "the automaton machine of Aitken and Wright was preferable to all other reaping machines."—*Abridged from the Journal of Agriculture.*

SKILL IN EVERYTHING.

The science of agriculture is made up of a whole group of sciences, whose theory and applications the farmer must understand and practice, if he would be master of his profession.

He must know something of Chemistry, to understand the treatment of the soil, and the composting and use of manures. He must understand Botany, to manage all the vegetables, grains and fruits which he grows. He needs Physiology and Medicine, to treat his animals well in health and sickness. If he builds a house or a barn, a knowledge of Architecture will stand him in good stead. If he has a threshing machine, or mower, he needs some acquaintance with the principles of motive power. In the construction of drains, he must apply the principles of Hydrostatics, and to some extent of Hydraulics too.

We give these facts as illustrations of our meaning, not by any means as exhausting what might properly be said on this matter. The truth is, the farmer must be a bit of a genius in almost everything, if he would stand at the head of his profession.

It was not our purpose, however, when we penned the heading of this article, to say much on these grave themes. It was an humbler topic that tempted our pen.

We wish to exhort our readers to become well skilled in all the minor operations which the management of the farm and garden involves. What we mean, two examples will show.

Mr. A. is a farmer, and *nothing else*. If a strap breaks in a harness, he sends two miles to have it mended. If a horse's leg is bruised, he will not treat it himself, but sends for a farrier. His bee-hives need repairing, and he hires a carpenter to do what a very little skill would enable him to do for himself. He cannot even mend an old sled, or repair a broken-backed rake, without foreign aid. He is a good farmer. He keeps his implements in good condition too, but it is at great expense.

Mr. B. is another sort of man. He is as good a farmer as Mr. A. But he is limber and elastic too. All the little jobs about the house he does himself, or teaches his boys to do. He can roof a house; he can hoop a barrel, or he can dig and wall a well. He can build a sled, put a spoke into a wagon-wheel, graft or bud a fruit tree, or make a new harness out of an old one, with an awl, a waxed end, and a bit of leather. If he attends a fair, he sees the "point" in the improvements that are on exhibition, and he can apply them to his own work without any further aid.

We will go but little further. Our readers see what we are at. We hope they will themselves be, and bring up their sons to be, men who will have some skill in everything.

Here are some reasons for this recommendation, which we will give at the risk of making this article a little longer:

1. Almost every farmer will need this kind of skill. Not one in a thousand will live so near a village where there are skilled mechanics, as to be able to use their aid at all times. Fewer still will farm on so large a scale as to embrace all these trades in the force employed on their own grounds. He will need some skill himself.

2. Such skill renders its possessor more independent. The sense of such independence is a great comfort. Its exercise is sometimes a great advantage.

3. It saves a great amount of time and money. We knew a man who lost a whole day's time, and several dollars in money in the following way:—A part of the harness was taken away. He had not enough tact and skill to repair it with a piece of a rein or halter.