

istic of the Germans of Pennsylvania. They are slow and steady, honest conservators: and here let me say, that in this age of haste, bustle and excitement of fast men, fast traveling and bitter radicalism, they form a valuable component part of the body politic. Preferring to hold fast to the time-honored principles and examples of their ancestors, they plow, plant and reap as did their fathers before them. Year after year they follow the same unbroken round of duties, only striving that each year may leave them richer than it found them; and generally, by frugality, industry and close application to their affairs, they secure a competence, which in due time is left for their children, who will follow in the same path.

Improvements in agricultural tools are not known or regarded as much as they should be. However, there is certainly a vast improvement in this respect during the last ten years. The German population are slowly but surely advancing in the right direction.

The English language is slowly gaining, and must eventually be the medium through which all business will be done. Railroads now in process of construction to and through the mineral deposits, must quicken exchanges, give more energy and life to trade, raise the standard of education by calling out more mental labor in the transaction of increased business.

Till within the past four years, the middle and northern sections of Eastern Pennsylvania have been mainly dependent upon the canals and rivers for exchanges; in that time they have been connected with New York and Philadelphia by the New York Central and the Belvidere, Delaware, Railroad. Three others are now in process of construction, among which is the one which will be of the most permanent benefit to North-Eastern Pennsylvania, i. e., the Northern Pennsylvania Railroad. It commences at Philadelphia, passes through the coal mines, and extends to Waverley, on the N. Y. and Erie Railroad; and not only to this section of Pennsylvania, but to all that part of New York lying west of the longitude of Waverley; for it opens to them a new market, which is at least 30 miles nearer than New York city. An immense market will therefore be thrown open to Central New York; while if the reciprocity measures, now almost entered into between New York and Canada, produce half the benefits which their advocates claim, the benefit to accrue both to New York and Eastern Pennsylvania must be great.

E. A.

EASTON, Pa. 1854.

[For the Gentle Farmer.]

### FRENCH MERINO SHEEP.

MR. EDITOR:—In connection with the plate of French Merino Sheep, accompanying this, I will (as you requested,) offer a few remarks. With regard to the fitness of this variety of Merino sheep for the general wants of the country at large, I think the great demand for them fully proves it. They have been tried by some of our most experienced breeders, and many prefer them to the Spanish Merino, and many again prefer the latter. Indeed, it seems now to be generally conceded that for the double purpose of raising wool and mutton, the French and Spanish Merino sheep are unequaled. The two families have their peculiar merits, and each their advocates. The Spanish Merino sheep are justly celebrated for their heavy fleeces, and their good constitution. In these respects I think they are equaled, if not surpassed, by the French. To me, one recommendation which the French sheep carry with them, is their size; and this seems to be a point which many sheep breeders greatly desire. I think the French sheep will supply this desideratum. I am well aware that many urge the greater amount of food required by the larger variety of sheep, as an objection to them. This is a point on which I can speak from my own experience alone, and that leads me to the conclusion that I reap greater profits from the greater amount of food fed to a large sheep, than from the lesser amount fed to a smaller sheep. Another peculiarity of this variety is their prolificness. I have had five lambs in seven months from one ewe; and it is no uncommon circumstance for my ewes to drop twins. As nurses, they are equal to any breed of sheep with which I am acquainted. I have now two ewes, imported by Mr. D. C. COLLINS, in 1840, and selected from the flock of RAMBOUILLET, which this year dropped four lambs. The lambs were strong and thrifty. This, I think, denotes a long-lived and prolific race of sheep. They possess as good constitutions and were as hardy and thrifty as any breed of sheep I ever owned; I have not lost one per cent. by disease since I have been keeping them, which has been for some six years past. I raise about one hundred and fifty per cent. of lambs, and find the lambs when dropped much hardier and stronger than any other breed I have ever owned. They are easily raised, requiring but little attention. The habits of French sheep, too, are such as must tend to fatten easily. They are quiet and docile, rarely moving rapidly, or traveling far, but seem rather to prefer remaining pretty much in one place. Indeed, after an experience of some