

## CHAPTER LXVII

### LOOKING FORWARD

I AM not so opinionated as to think that mine is the only method of farming. On the contrary, I know that it is only one of several good methods ; but that it is a good one, I insist. For a well-to-do, middle-aged man who was obliged to give up his profession, it offered change, recreation, employment, and profit. My ability to earn money by my profession ceased in 1895, and I must needs live at ease on my income, or adopt some congenial and remunerative employment, if such could be found. The vision of a factory farm had flitted through my brain so often that I was glad of the opportunity to test my theories by putting them into practice. Fortunately I had money, and to spare ; for I had but a vague idea of what money would be needed to carry my experiment to the point of self-support. I set aside \$60,000 as ample, but I spent nearly twice that amount without blinking. It is quite likely that I could have secured as good and as prompt returns with two-thirds of this expenditure. I plead guilty to thirty-three per cent lack of economy ; the extenuating circumstances were, a wish to let the