

ings become dilapidated—his stock deteriorates yearly—his crop fails—his pastures die off—his ditches silt up—his drains become choked—his field implements become imperfect and comparatively useless—his work is not performed in due season—his seedtime is delayed till too late—his harvest is consequently late and uncertain—and all these neglects cooperate to effect his speedy ruin—compelling him in a very few years to take refuge in bankruptcy and disgrace. Now how is all this to be avoided? The means are plain and simple. He must be patient, industrious, persevering—attentive to the most minute details—careful of small profits—he must not trust the management to others—he must be able to conduct and participate in the labour of the farm himself, and must be constantly at the head of matters, and he must not be tempted to desert his post by the thousand and one attractions which afford so many convenient excuses to a very considerable number of those, who would fain rejoice in the name and style of Practical Farmers.

The following extracts we consider valuable, as giving a statement of the conditions considered necessary to success across the lines; and it will afford our Readers an opportunity of comparison with their own standard. In forming our estimate of anything, we are greatly aided when opportunities are afforded us of judging by comparison, especially when the instances presented have many conditions approximating, or in common.

J. A.

*Capital.*—The first requisite in all undertakings of magnitude, is to “count the cost.” The man who commences a building, which to finish would cost ten thousand dollars, with a capital of only five thousand, is certainly ruined, as many farmers are, who, without counting the cost, commence on a scale to which their limited means are wholly inadequate. One of the greatest mistakes which young farmers make in this country, in their anxious wish for large possessions, is not only in purchasing more land than they can pay for, but in the actual expenditure of all their means, without leaving any even to *begin* the great work of farming. Hence, the farm continues for a long series of years poorly provided with stock, with implements, with manure, and with the necessary labor. From this heavy drawback on the profits of his land, the farmer is kept long in debt; the burthen of which not only disheartens him, but prevents that enterprise and energy which are essential to success. This is one fruitful reason why American agriculture is in many places in so low a state. A close observer, in travelling through the country, is thus enabled often to decide from the appearances of the buildings and premises of each occupant, whether he is in or out of debt.

In England—where the enormous taxes of different kinds, imperiously compel the cultivator to farm well, or not farm at all—the indispensable necessity of a heavy capital to begin with, is fully understood. The man who merely *rents* a farm there, must possess as much to stock it and commence operations, as the man who *buys* and pays for a farm of equal size in the best parts of western New-York. The result is, that he is enabled to do everything in the best manner: but is not compelled to bring his goods prematurely to market, to supply his pressing wants; and by having ready money always at command, he can perform every operation at the very best season for product and economy, and make purchases, when necessary, at the most advantageous rate. The English farmer is thus able to pay an amount of tax, often more than the whole product of farms of equal extent in this country.