

large enough! A few years after, the owner informed the writer, and with wonder, that this English farmer actually made more clear profit every year from this small piece of ground, than he did from his farm of perhaps as many acres. This English farmer had the benefit of succeeding a very slovenly and neglectful tenant, and know well how to use what he had neglected, immense quantities of well rotted manure. But the main secret of his success is, that he was careful to apply all his manure skillfully, at the right time and in the right place, so as to concentrate and condense his applied labors, manures and means of all sorts, that nothing should be lost by being spread too thin, extended over too much ground. If it were not for giving offence, we might cite instances of both kinds. To avoid this, let us invite every one to task his own recollection a little, and produce instances from his own observation. When he shall have done so, let each be a lesson to him.

A thrifty farmer generally persuades himself that he must be buying more land, a piece from this neighbor and a piece from that; and as readily persuades himself that those who sell must be unthrifty. Both positions may be true, and both may be false. The very idea, to most farmers, of selling off pieces of their land, is of the extremely repulsive kind, a sort of damper, mortally dreaded. Yet we have known men who had the courage to do it, because they thought it best, and who have never had occasion to regret having done so. In all neighborhoods, there are some men over-much wise as to the business of their neighbors. Such men grow fat upon it whenever a farmer sells off some of his land, never once doubting that he who does so must be growing poor. Such are some of the reasons why the farms in this country are almost too large, and will be till diminished in size by pure necessity. Small farms lead to improved husbandry.

The prevalent fault of our agriculture is perhaps a disposition to run over too much land. Manure may be spread so thin as to lose all good effects from it. So also may labor, by which it costs more than it comes to. An eagle in the pocket of a farmer is not only a solid substance, but will exchange for any other that he may chance to want, as will gold in coin, because the representative of value of substantial things connected with the real wants and comforts of life. When beaten out to gold-leaf,

however, though still gold, spread amazingly thin, it passes into an article for the use of the fine arts, the value of which depends not so much on the real as the imaginary wants of life, and its value is very uncertain.

The improvement in culture and agricultural implements has been steadily progressing, and the general state of "the art of all arts," as the printers call theirs, is vastly superior to what it was some fifty years ago, and is even improving every year. Yet not so much by "fits and starts," as many people seem to imagine, but by steady effort, solids acting on solids, minds on minds—grave, sedate, calculating, seeking certain profits, such as farmers are principally concerned about. Speculation will not do for farmers, your "slow and sure men," the real back-bone of social, civil, and moral order.—C. N. BEMENT, in *Country Gentlemen*.

PROFITS OF FLAX CULTURE.

THE extraordinary rise in cotton and woollen goods should have the effect to stimulate the production and manufacture of flax. When cotton cloth could be obtained at six to ten cents a yard, it was no object for farmers to cultivate flax; but now affairs have so changed as to warrant our farmers in turning attention to this branch of agriculture. A gentleman in Ohio, who raised three acres of flax last season, gives the result in communication to his local paper in these words and figures:

Product from three Acres.	
1440 lbs. dressed flax, at 17 cents,	\$214.80
70 bushels seed, \$1.60	112.00
Total.....	\$356.80
Cost of Raising.	
2½ bushels of seed sown.....	\$10.00
Plowing.....	4.00
Harrowing.....	2.00
Pulling, at \$5 per acre.....	15.00
Threshing off seed and rotting.....	10.00
Dressing about 3 cents per lb.....	34.00
Total.....	\$75.00
Profit.....	\$281.80

This at present prices shows an enormous profit; but there is nothing fabulous about it. Two years ago flax brought only six cents per pound, and it is now seventeen, and besides this the reader will see that the farmer receives good wages for all he does. With only ten bushels of seed