

"The sum of 36s. 6d. per ten acres would be something less than 3s. 8d. per acre; but say £2 per day and 4s. per acre.

"The value of the work done was estimated at from 20s. to 24s. per acre; say the lowest of these two figures, which would give £10 per day, so that deducting the £2 (the expense of the engine), we would have £8 as the profit per day over our present system; £48 per week; or the prime cost of the engine in some ten weeks' work.

"When the engine was timed it was ploughing fully an acre an hour, but at that time it was going rather over its ordinary pace. In point of fact, the boiler is only calculated to keep up a maximum pressure of 45 lbs. of steam per square inch, and with the most successful stoking it seldom much exceeded this pressure, while it very frequently fell below it. Midland we found it at one time as high as 50 lbs., and at another as low as 35 lbs. We may also mention here, that we had the diameter of the cylinder measured, and found it 6½ inches. Probably at the ordinary pace of the engine it was ploughing at the rate of eight acres per day of ten hours. We insisted very hard, on Tuesday, for a ten hours' trial without intermission; but owing to the urgent demand of visitors,—some of them from the continent of Europe, the East and West Indies, and the United States of America,—to see it trench-plowing, &c., &c., our request was found impracticable on any of the days advertised for public trial.

"At eight acres per day, the expense per acre would be 5s., and the profit per day, £6; per week, £36, over the present system—a profit which would soon pay off the prime cost of an engine. In the provinces the expense of such ploughing would be, on an average, only 16s.; at ten acres this would yield £3, or £6 of daily profit; at eight acres, £6 8s., or £4 8s. of profit, allowing the expense of the engine in each case to remain as before.

"There was no two-horse or six inches deep furrow work done, and therefore we cannot say from experience what the expense of such was; but we may safely conclude that, at ten acres per day, it would not be more than 2s. 6d. per acre; and at eight acres per day, 3s.

"Such are the leading facts which we gleaned from two days spent with the Messrs. Middleton. That they involve a revolution in agriculture no one will deny who comprehends their importance. To those of our readers who have hitherto been opposed to Boydell's steam-horse entering their fields, the above results may appear startling, and even incredible; but to such we say, go and judge for yourselves, and be guided by facts, not opinions. We ourselves hope very soon to witness far more triumphant results in favor of direct traction than the above, for several of our most intelligent and leading agriculturists have traction-engines of an improved construction, and with better implements for tillage, nearly ready to enter the field, than what were used on the above occasion."

WRITERS FOR THE PRESS.—We fully endorse the following:—Many practical farmers, who have been taught in the best schools, that of experience—decline to write for the press because they have not received the education of scholars, and do not write in a smooth and elegant style. If they were solicited to contribute to the columns of literary papers, where style often passes for more than thought, this might be a legitimate excuse. But writers for the agricultural press need only two things, neither of which is dependent upon the graces of mere literature: 1st, Something to say; and 2d, A few clear, plain words in which to say it. If our rural friends will bear these two points in mind, they may write to us as often as they have a leisure half hour, and we will stand all consequences. Nay, we solicit them to do so. We dare them to write us out of patience, if they think they can. We challenge them to put more interesting facts in a brief communication than we can publish. We defy them to write in language so plain that we cannot understand it. Let us see, now, which one of them will take up this gauntlet first.

IMPORTANT IF TRUE.—To secure from cattle, male or female progeny at will.—According to an article in the Annals of the Luxemburg Agricultural Society, communicated by a Belgian farmer, a heifer calf is invariably produced when the cow is put to bull before milking, and a male calf when the cow is put to bull just after she has been thoroughly milked. The author of this statement claims to have confirmed its accuracy by four years experience, and asserts that the plan has succeeded beyond all expectation. Cows, which previously had borne only male calves, and that for four or five years, gave heifer calves by the above treatment. Give it a trial.—BAKEWELL.