

shed, and to the sheep in the field, consisting of oil-cake, meal, and beans, cost £2,000 a-year. The greater part of this oil-cake is charged to manure, which it enriches in quality as well as increases in quantity; but the direct expenditure on artificial manures—guano, nitrate of soda, and superphosphate of lime—amounts in addition to £1,000 a-year. Wages absorb from £2,600 to £3,000 a-year. Seven or eight waggon-loads per acre of farmyard-manure are ploughed in on land intended for roots, besides above 30s. worth per acre of superphosphate of lime drilled in with the turnip-seed; while wheat has a top-dressing of 1 cwt. of guano, $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of nitrate of soda, and 2 cwt. of salt, mixed with earth and ashes. No weeds are grown. The turnips are taken up in November, and a troop, called by the vile name of a “gang,” consisting of “boys and girls,” under the care of an experienced man, traverse the ground, forking out and burning every particle of twitch or thistle. The same “troop” is called in during the progress of the root-crop whenever occasion requires, and immediately after harvest they go over the stubbles with their little three-pronged forks, exterminating the slightest vestige of a weed. The expenses of cleaning are thus kept down to 1s. an acre, a price which excited the admiration and doubts of that admirable agricultural essayist, the late Mr. Thomas Gisborne, and which proves that, by stopping the evil at the source, and never allowing the enemy to get ahead, land may be kept wholly weeded more cheaply than half weeded. Lord Berners mentioned as recently as 1855 that he found in Leicestershire hundreds of acres netted over with twitch as thick as a Life-guardsmen’s cane, and dotted with clumps of thistles like bushes. Such neglected land required an expenditure of £5 to £6 an acre to put it in heart. The farmer who saw a thief daily stealing from his dung-heap, would soon call in the aid of a policeman. The weeds are an army of scattered thieves, and, if the pilferings of each are small in amount, the aggregate is immense. The wise and thrifty farmer, therefore, keeps his constabulary to take up the offender, and consign him as quickly as possible to death. He who allows himself to be daily robbed of his crop, and the community to the same extent of food, and all the while looks helplessly on, is not only a bad farmer, but in effect, though not in design, a bad citizen also.

Mr. J. Thomas, of Liddington Park, our second example, farms about 800 acres of a mixed character under the Duke of Bedford, of whom it is the highest praise to say that he is a landlord worthy of such tenants, consisting in part of clay, which has been rendered profitable for arable cultivation by deep drainage, and in part of what is locally called sand, which has been reduced from rabbit-warrens to corn-fields by the Norfolk system. This intelligent cultivator read a paper some time since to the Central Farmers’ Club, in which he stated, with the assent of his tenant audience, that, under very high farming, it was not only possible but advisable to reduce the fertility of the soil by the more frequent growth of grain—as, for instance, by taking barley after wheat, and returning to the once fatal system of two white crops in succession. He said that, under the four or five-course he began to find his “turnips subject to strange, inexplicable diseases; his barley (where a large crop of swedes had been fed on the ground by sheep, with the addition of cake or corn) laid flat on the ground by its own weight, and in a wet harvest sprouted, thus rendering the grain unfit for the maltster, the straw valueless as fodder, while the young clover was stifled and killed by the lodgment of the barley crop.” Thus, while Roman agriculturists, with all their garden-like care, were tormented by a decreasing produce, on an exhausted soil, we, after ages of cropping, have arrived at the point of an over-abundant fertility—an evil to be cured, not by any fixed rule, but “by permitting the diligent and intelligent tenant-farmer a freer exercise of judgment.” In this speaker we have another specimen of the