

In common roads, where lumber is plenty, the plank road is the greatest improvement that has yet been made; and we, who have spent most of our days where, in the spring and fall, the roads were nearly impassable, and in the summer none too good, are impatient when we reflect how much needless toil and expense we have undergone, and how much we have suffered, by being jolted over corduroy roads. I have no doubt that a plank road from Albany to Sackett's Harbor would have saved the government, during the war of 1812, ten millions of dollars.

The toll house should extend across the road, so that when the traveller stops to pay toll, he should be under the shelter of the roof, and it is desirable, that it should be a comfortable dwelling, with cellar and cistern, and well and garden, and then the plank road company will be more likely to obtain the services of a civil, respectable, and honest family, to tend their gate. The gate should "*swing*"—accidents are apt to occur if the gate is made to rise. I have thus, I believe, given an answer, perhaps too tedious and minute, to your inquiries.

I remain, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CHARLES E. CLARKE.

We have deemed it best to add the above to Mr. Kingsford's essay, being desirous that the reader should possess all that is in our possession on the subject. If there be any discrepancy in the suggestions of different writers, he can decide for himself. On the whole, with the statistics and directions here given, any man, or company, may, we apprehend, decide as to the cost and expediency of building a plank road; and with such directions and diagrams, any good carpenter can execute the work.

## THE MOULDEBART.

THE implement here illustrated, is now more generally known than it was twenty-six years ago, when the present Editor of the Plough, the Loom, and the Anvil, caused it to be engraved for the American Farmer, from a work, then recently published, on FLEMISH HUSBANDRY.

It seems to have served as a model for scrapers used in the construction of turnpike and other roads, water-ponds for cattle, &c., and it is obvious that such an implement would be highly useful for many purposes, besides making plank and other roads, where loosened earth is to be moved to a short distance. By its means, for example, old dunghills and farm yards, being ploughed up, may be quickly collected in masses, ready for being transported by other conveyances to any distance. It might be used too for constructing rough ditches, and for collecting the ploughed earth on head-lands for making composts.

The author of the work on Flemish Husbandry says, "Too much cannot be said in favour of its efficacy in removing soil from one part of the field to another, in the easiest and most expeditious manner, which has established its general use in Flanders, and ought to recommend it everywhere. The person who drives with long reins, by pressing moderately on the handle as