

inviting, and a knowledge of which is assumed in the books and papers of the learned. Men of science have been frequently more mindful of their own reputation, than of the instruction of the ignorant. Still they ought to descend no farther than is needful to raise the latter up to the proper elevation for useful inquiry, by blending together instructive facts and clear explanation. May it also ever be their desire to point to the grand moral lessons taught by physical facts, and to show that the most striking marvels tend to make us more and more in believing confidence in "Him in whom we live, and move, and have our being!" Thus the exercise of our faculties will quicken our faith,—and

"Faith is not reason's labour,—but repose."

ON THE RELATIVE MERITS OF GOOD, BAD, AND PARSIMONIOUS FARMING.

After making a few prefatory remarks, Mr. Stephenson said, 'I shall proceed to shew what I consider constitutes good, bad, and parsimonious farming, and as my subject divides itself into three heads, I shall briefly make a few plain remarks upon each in succession.

First.—A good practical Farmer commences his work in a methodical manner, having all his plans arranged long before operations are begun. In autumn his first attention is directed towards the sowing of his seed, and advantage is immediately taken afterwards to the storing of his turnips; so that his cattle which are feeding may have their food sweet and good, at stated times, which he considers of the utmost importance towards their improvement; and also that they are plentifully supplied with straw to keep them warm and comfortable. He also thinks it necessary to take some pains in classing them according to their different ages and size. During the autumn the land intended for green crops and spring sowing is effectually ploughed, letting it remain exposed all winter to the frost. When the weather sets in stormy, the thoughtful Farmer is busily employed in collecting and carting manure to the most advantageous situations on the farm, to remain until applied to the land; also repairing roads, leading tiles for draining, &c.; he, therefore, always has plenty of work for his establishment. When the spring arrives and the weather proves favourable, he can proceed without being obliged to do work which ought to have been done in the winter months. After getting all his spring corn sown, his attention is next directed towards his green crops, but he is careful not to turn the winter-ploughed land over until properly dry, which afterwards he finds no difficulty in getting prepared. During the summer months he still goes forward with the same spirit and energy; nothing escapes his notice, and his mind is constantly engaged; he rises early, has all his servants ready at the appointed time, to commence their different operations, such as working his fallows, cleaning his turnips and potatoes, &c.; and when the hay harvest arrives, not a moment is lost to make it secure, because he considers it the most precarious crop he has to manage, particularly if it be grown to any extent. In addition to his ploughmen, he considers it will require for every two pair of horses one spade-man and four women, to enable him to carry on the summer work with activity and success. The harvest is now approaching, and in order that the necessary preparations should be made, he first calculates how many labourers it will require to reap his corn in a proper time; and, secondly, insists upon having it cut low, by which he is enabled to procure a greater quantity of straw for making manure during the winter. His stack-yard also is neatly finished—in general a sure emblem of a good Farmer. Then, take a survey round the farm, and you will find it in proper order—hedges neatly trimmed, not occupying twice the ground necessary; all water-courses attended to, gates well hung and fastened, so that his cattle cannot take a ramble through the fields when they choose; all his implements of husbandry are kept in good repair and in their proper place. With such attention and care we cannot wonder, then, that he is successful; for you may be sure if small things are attended to, then greater and more important will not be neglected. Having thus finished his year's labour, he is enabled to look upon it with pleasure,

because he is satisfied that by his judicious arrangements his farm is still improving, and he calculates that the value of his crops and the profit arising from his cattle are inducements for him to continue on with all the energy and perseverance he has hitherto exerted.

Secondly.—Bad farming.—I am sorry to say that kind of farming is too often seen. A bad Farmer cares not how or what way his land is cultivated. His work is always behind hand, and gone through without any regard to neatness or regularity. If I were to give you a minute description of his whole year's employment, it would occupy too much of your time, and I shall therefore merely glance at his different movements. During the autumn and winter months, instead of finding him engaged in making proper preparation for the spring work, he will probably have his horses running out to grass, saving a few bolls of oats; and his ploughmen employed at work which ought to be done by spademen, thereby neglecting what is more essential to be done by his draughts. His young cattle are wandering in all directions over the farm, and those intended for feeding make little improvement, owing to the bad system of not supplying them regularly with food. He makes no preparation for the preservation of the turnips, they are left exposed all winter, and only taken up when wanted, which, in a wet season, proves very injurious to the following crops. The corn he sends to market is generally in bad condition, being full of weeds, which considerably depreciates its value. The seed sown in the spring is done without any regard to the peculiarities of the soil. His horses are low in condition, and consequently unable to perform their work in an efficient manner. The servants, finding their master neither economical or industrious, invariably fall into the same indolent habits. The summer work is not better managed; his green crops are all overgrown with weeds; his hay is considerably injured, owing to want of proper attention; the fallows are neglected in their ploughing and cleaning; the few quickens gathered are most likely thrown into the fence, or perhaps stopping the water course, which, being without a sufficient outlet, overruns the land and seriously damages the crop. The harvest is got through in the same indolent manner, without due respect to management, or saving of expense; wasting the corn, and leaving a great portion of the straw on the ground. Then, as for its stack-yard, it will not bear inspection, exhibiting in it the same sample of slovenliness and waste. The seed time approaches, the land is unprepared, the weather may set in wet, and in consequence the seed is improperly put in; it cannot be a matter of surprise that by such management the produce of the land should not be sufficient to pay the rent and cover all expenses. For, in a few years, his capital is gone, and he is obliged to leave his farm, where, with proper industry and skill, he might have remained.

Thirdly.—Parsimonious farming.—This does not consist entirely in that slovenly and careless style I have been describing, but rather in a niggardly and covetous disposition; such as when a man, as the old proverb says, 'Stoops at a straw and throws away a fold.' Although a character of this description may be perfectly acquainted with his business, yet his narrow and selfish disposition, working upon his fears, will not allow him to expend one farthing beyond what he supposes is barely sufficient for the operations of the farm, because, he thinks, if he should, he would never see it again. His establishment is in full keeping with his principle, being scantily provided with both men and horses to work the farm; and he never employs an extra hand, without absolute necessity. The general routine of the farm is also carried on in a similar manner to the bad Farmer, only he is decidedly more careful. His autumn work is attended to; turnips partially secured; his cattle, when brought to market are not fat, because they have been too sparingly fed; during the winter he collects what manure he can upon the farm, but never thinks of purchasing any; when the spring arrives his land is in readiness to receive the seed at the proper time, and the same may be said of his green crops, but in consequence of the limited quantity of manure, the produce proves scanty; his hay crop is deficient from the same cause, and often injured by being too long ex-