

reserve. Everybody respects a punctual man. He is sure to thrive, as punctuality implies industry and foresight. Next comes justice in all your dealings.

"Now," he continued, "you have a hundred facilitates for carrying on farming successfully of which the first settlers of this country had no knowledge. Look at the splendid implements we saw at the fair, the improved animals, the low prices at which they were sold, and the vast abundance of them all. These are so many helps to success."

Then unfolding a newspaper, he read the following article, but was ignorant of the author's name:—

"Our New England fathers pursued farming under difficulties of which we have little conception. The country from which they emigrated was farther advanced in civilization, and better tilled than any on the globe; and this they exchanged for one entirely new to them, and for a soil and climate unlike those of which they had before some experience. Thrown into a savage wilderness, their knowledge of farming on the smooth plains of the old country would avail them but little. Almost everything must be learned anew, and their knowledge of farming in America must be acquired by slow and painful experience. Who will wonder, then, that their progress was slow? Rather let us wonder that they did not succumb to the difficulties and hardships.

"The early settlers had no beasts of burden for months after their arrival. And, when at length a few cows were sent over, being poorly fed on coarse meadow hay, many of them drooped and died, and others, surviving this, were killed by the wolves or the Indians. Besides, the difficulty and cost of importations were then so great as to raise their price above the means of ordinary farmers. In the year 1636 cows sold from twenty-five to thirty pounds sterling, \$125 to \$150, and oxen at forty pounds a pair. The cattle, too, were greatly inferior to those of the present day. The ox was small and ill-shaped, and the horse very unlike the noble dray-horses of Boston and Baltimore of the present day and the sheep were inferior, both in size and form, and in the fineness of the wool. In 1638 there were no horses in the Plymouth colony; and history tells us that one John Alden, the rival suitor of Miles Standish, carried home his bride on the back of a bull, which he had covered with a piece of handsome broadcloth, he leading the ungainly animal by a rope fastened to a ring in its nose.

"Agricultural implements could then be imported from the mother-country, but all persons could not afford to obtain them in this way. A farmer of the present day would not think the best of them worth much, they were so rudely made, so heavy

and unwieldy. Many of their tools were made from bog-ore, the only metal to be had, and were very brittle and easily destroyed.

"Twelve years after the landing at Plymouth, the farmers of the colony had no ploughs, and were obliged to prepare their lands for seed with the hoe. As late as 1637 there were only thirty-six ploughs in the whole of Massachusetts. For a long period after this the State paid a bounty to any one who should buy and keep a plough in repair, making it his sole business to go from farm to farm breaking up land. This must have been a real ploughman!

It was a great advantage, surely, to the first settlers, to acquire the use of the several new plants employed by the natives for food. Yet it took some time to learn how to cultivate them, and hardly less how to relish them. Indian corn was one of these plants; and pumpkins, squashes, potatoes, and tobacco were almost equally strangers to them. It is said that the potato were so rare in England, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, as to be used only in the smallest quantities. It was sold at two shillings a pound for the Queen's table and was used as a fruit, baked into pies, seasoned with spices and wine, and sometimes eaten with sugar.

"The colonists adopted, to a great extent, the Indian mode of cultivating the plants above named; and, as the times then were, it answered a good purpose. For example, like the natives, they planted their corn four feet apart; and those living near the sea-coast, manured their plants in the hill with horse-shoe crabs; those living on streams in the interior used fishes for the same purpose. They planted beans among their corn, that the former might be supported by the latter. They hilled their corn about two feet high, supposing it necessary to sustain the stalks."

"Now compare all that you can everywhere see with this picture of distitution and hardship. You," added the old man, "have no such privations to encounter. These forgotten heroes of the soil have cleared away the forests, leaving to us the pleasing duty of giving to it the highest cultivation."

CHAPTER XVIII.

CHANGES ON THE FARM.—THE BOYS BECOMING MEN.—

TONY AND HIS PROSPECTS.—GOING INTO THE ARMY.

—A GREAT DISCOVERY.—UNCLE BENNY'S TRIUMPH.

—TONY KING MADE HAPPY.

The three boys had now grown up to the young men, and counted as full hands on the farm. Tony King was receiving wages, and proud enough he felt when Spangler paid him the first twenty dollars he had ever earned. Every part of the farm was showing the good effects of Uncle Benny's