

the spring, and did not have to lose two or three months in the summer, to recruit what they had lost in the winter.

He became quite proud of his stock of cows, for he had the reputation of having the best cows in town, and of making the most butter for the number of cows. This resulted, as he was well aware, from having raised none but promising calves, and his having taken good care of them. His wife always took great pains with her butter, and the man who carried it to market, always returned her one or two cents a pound above the price of common butter. Neighbor Wiseman learned by experience the value of the turnip crop and always laid out for a good supply of flat turnips for the fall and early part of winter, and of ruta-bagas, for the remainder of the winter. Although most of his neighbors believed that turnips were of little value, yet somehow, by their use, his cows did better and made more butter than theirs, and when he had occasion to fatten one, she made good beef, in less time, and at less cost, than they could make it.

In about three years from the time he purchased the twenty acre lot, he purchased a piece of meadow with a strip of woodland adjoining. He now had his barn quite full of hay and grain when he gathered in his harvest, and began to think it necessary to enlarge it. So he made his arrangements, and prepared to add forty feet to his barn the next season; and as he now had four stout oxen, he soon had the timber on the ground, and the board logs at the mill, and before the end of the next season, he had a fine barn, one hundred feet long and forty feet wide. This time he put in a few extra windows, and set his barn doors on rollers, and built a tight board fence around his cow yard, to break of the wind from his cattle when they were in the yard. He took great care of all his stock, young and old. As he had raised them all himself, he knew their several characters and habits, and they were well acquainted with him, and knew his voice and step. They had all been accustomed from their earliest days, to look to him as their best friend and protector, and to conform to his will, so that he never had any difficulty in managing them. He thought the best time to handle steers and break them in, was when they were calves, and this he had always done, and no oxen in the neighbourhood were so well broken, and so sure on a hard pull, as neighbor Wiseman's. He never required more of them than he knew they could do, and they soon learned that they could do whatever he required. They trusted his judgment, and never refused to obey his orders. He believed that when more is required of the patient ox than he is able to do, he will soon learn to refuse to do what he can, and thus he is spoiled for service. His cattle were never breachy, for he kept good fences.

His cultivated fields were now inclosed with substantial stone. His walled land contained a good supply of stones, and he had dug them out of his fields, where they were worse than useless, and laid them into walls, where they did good service. This he had done, a little at a time, as he found opportunity, and thus not only made his fields more secure, but much easier of tillage. He added new improvements and conveniences as he found himself able. He had now two boys and two girls, all bright and healthy. He kept those who were old enough at school, while the district school kept. His oldest boy was now big enough to be useful in many ways, and he kept him employed with him, when he was not at school, and taught him to manage the team, and ride and drive the horse, and tend the cows, and do all kinds of work, for which his strength was competent. Neighbor Wiseman was now considered one of the most thrifty, well-doing men in town. His neighbors finding him successful in all his plans, often consulted him with regard to their crops, and farming arrangements, and seldom had cause to regret that they had followed his advice. He was public spirited, as well as economical, and was always in favor of every measure that