

of pounds that a son may be allowed to work as a common mechanic in the shops of some great engineer who undertakes no sort of after obligation and does not even keep, nay he scarcely sees his pupil. £500 for this is a species of premium that might indeed astonish the uninitiated. The same custom on a less costly scale applies to lawyers, auctioneers, etc., where neither expense of keep nor responsibility are involved. Setting aside the high class farm pupil establishments there are some farmers in England of a more homely description who undertake to make a pupil work in the field. People do not hesitate for a moment to pay £80 or £100 a year to such. The young man we will suppose is destined for America and in the English farm life money is more or less thrown away, but when the same parent turns towards America for the following year where his son will really begin to learn something useful, he is too often inclined to expect from Americans what he would not think of expecting from Englishmen. If the young man were to go back for a second year to the English farmer his work, by this time we presume at least partially understood, would not be mentioned and the same premium would be paid. Let an American farmer however be in the case, not the plain working farmer, but let us suppose a man superior to the aforesaid English farmer in birth, education and position, living perhaps in a good establishment on a fine farm in Virginia or Kentucky. In such cases, there is a tendency among Englishmen very often to be unfair in their expectations to forget that the keep in such a household is at least as expensive as in an ordinary English farmhouse, the associations very much better, the onus of an inmate equally burdensome, the technical ignorance of the young man as to American farm work absolute and his assistance of no greater value than it would be to the English farmer. There is far greater profit to the latter out of his £100 a year, than to the better class American who takes a pupil at £40 or £50. I have the best of reason for knowing that the cost of keep would be to all intent and purposes about the same. It is not quite easy therefore to account for a disposition here and there among English people to expect for little or nothing in America