

courageously attacked in berry time under "Uncle Benny's" auspices, and an enormous quantity of fruit gathered, enough to bring, when sent to market, *sixty dollars*. The old gentleman sees a mine of wealth in the briar patch, and gets Mr. Spangler's permission to do what he pleases with it. He invests the proceedings of the first blackberry gathering in getting openings cut through the jungle ten feet wide, which are thoroughly ploughed and harrowed, leaving the plot, some six acres in extent, in even rows of bushes. These rows are cultivated and manured. "Uncle Benny" does the planning and financing, while the boys co-operate with him in the most industrious and persevering manner. Everything prospers under such wise management and diligent labour. Four of the young pigs are taken to the County Fair, where they win the first prize, and sell for ten dollars apiece. The pigeons multiply, and the increase are readily sold. The corn crop is abundant and remunerative. The corn land is planted to strawberries and raspberries, with single plants of sweet corn at such distances as to give a little shade to the strawberries and raspberries, without crowding them, and the sweet corn brings in enough to pay the outlay on the fruit plants. The six acres of blackberries yield four hundred dollars,—two hundred and fifty clear of all expenses. Thus the boys become successful fruit farmers, under "Uncle Benny's" tutelage, grow up to love rural pursuits, become reading, thinking, progressive young men; while old Mr. Spangler yields to the force of the practical logic brought to bear upon him, and improves vastly in his farm management. Comforts thicken and multiply in-doors as the progress goes on out-doors. The upshot of it is, that when a rich uncle of Tony comes along, and wishes to help his nephew make a start in the world, Spangler sells thirty out of his hundred acres, including the briar patch, so that Tony and the Spangler boys become next neighbours, raise fruit on a large scale, get on famously, while "Uncle Benny," when disabled by age, continues to be their "guide, philosopher and friend."

The above is a meagre outline of a well-told tale, which boys will read with as much avidity as the "last new novel," and which cannot fail to rouse them to self-reliance, and a laudable ambition to carve out success for themselves. Of course it is only in certain favoured localities, near large cities, that fruit-farming can be gone into on a large scale profitably; and the author of "Ten Acres Enough" is known to make fruit-farming a hobby; but the narrative we have outlined brings out principles of wider application, although the same brilliant results are not to be looked for in all conceivable circumstances.

It is a most important question—what can be done to interest our young folks in agriculture, as their future occupation? As an old lady, a farmer's wife, lately remarked to us, "The rising generation does not take much to farming." Many reasons may be given for this. But the main thing is to apply the remedy. And must not this be done very much by such means as are suggested by the foregoing narrative? If boys are kept on the farm as mere drudges, if they are made to toil mechanically, instead of being initiated into the whys and wherefores of what they do, if they have no opportunity for making a little money for themselves, if home is not rendered pleasant and attractive, if due provision is not made for occasional recreation, can it be wondered at that they regard the farm as a place of confinement, whence they make their escape whenever they find a chance of so doing? Let fathers act the part of "Uncle Benny" to their sons and daughters, and there would be less complaint of the tendency cityward, of which we ever and anon hear so much. To sum up, we would suggest as likely means to induce a love of farm life in young people, the following things:—

1. That instruction be given in our country schools

on the theory and practice of agriculture, especial pains being taken to explain principles, trace results to their causes, and waken intelligent interest in those natural processes and laws which have to do with successful culture of the soil.

2. That farmers aim to make home life pleasant, by surrounding their dwellings with some show of beauty, providing, as far as possible, in-door comforts, furnishing books and papers for their children to read, especially such as treat on rural pursuits, devising suitable recreations, and avoiding excess of work for young muscles and growing bones.

3. That instead of a constant fault-finding in regard to farm-life, which is too common, agriculturists learn to estimate their calling aright, to feel an honest pride in reference to it, and infuse into the minds of their children similar sentiments.

4. That personal interest be created in farm operations, by giving young people a plot of land, a young animal, a hive of bees, or something of the sort, to encourage and enable them to acquire and save a little money for themselves.

5. That by attendance at agricultural exhibitions, visits to the best conducted farms in the neighbourhood, and the establishment of Farmers' Clubs, at which interesting matters pertaining to rural life may be debated, the minds of young people be sharpened and stimulated toward improvement.

6. In a word, life on the farm, to be attractive, must be elevated and dignified, as it may easily be, so as to render a country home not only as delightful as a city home, but more so, because of those charms which invest nature, and never can be out-done by art.

We anticipate a great change for the better, when the generality of farmers' families are moulded under such influences and principles as those which are brought out in practical action, in the suggestive book for boys which has prompted this article.

Cattle Plague in the West.

AN alarming disease has broken out among the cattle in the Western States. The earliest complaint comes from Indiana and Illinois, where the losses are already said to be very great. As the cause of the plague is said to be the importation of Texas cattle, no doubt the track of the plague must be a lengthy one on the plains. Texas droves commenced arriving about the first of May, and as they stopped at many places to graze, the native cattle contracted a disease, which for fatality is said to challenge the rinderpest. Wherever the native stock fed after the departure of the Texas cattle, death ensued usually in about five days.

In one county in Illinois, a writer shows that \$10,000 worth of cattle had been skinned in fifteen days at the early outbreak of the pest, and it was spreading with such fearful rapidity that all medicines were abandoned. It chiefly attacked milch cows, and among them not a single instance of recovery was noted. In some communities, the people have been suddenly deprived of milk and butter. Vigilance committees are forming in the interior villages, and threatening to kill every Texas herd that comes within miles of the neighbourhood. At Kankakee, in Illinois, where the disease is raging, an indignation meeting was held, and the owner of a large Texas herd was threatened with its destruction if not removed immediately. The owner assured the committee that removal was then too late to abate the disease, and pacified the people by guaranteeing to make good the loss of all the cattle which should die of the disease in that neighbourhood.

A commission of medical men, appointed by the Pork Packers' Association of Chicago, have visited the points where the Texas disease has appeared, and will issue a carefully prepared report. They state that intense excitement exists in the afflicted localities, and vigilance committees are preventing the

landing of cattle from boats or cars, or their passage through the country in droves.

In reference to the question, "what is the disease?" the *Prairie Farmer* of Aug. 6, says:

"We can only answer by giving the opinion of Professor Gamgee, who after a *post mortem* examination of several animals, pronounces it one of a group of inflammatory fevers, or blood diseases, called in England Anthrax Fever, in other places Black Water, from the colour of the urine; and from the resemblance of this one to that, he would suggest that it be called the Black Water of Texas."

The panic has reached Chicago, and the newspapers there say there is no further occasion for secrecy. The dreaded fever found its way into the stock yards, by means of a cow from the infected district, on Monday last, and the cattle dealers and public are in great anxiety. There are in stockyards about 5,000 head of native cattle, and some 4,000 head of Texas stock are herded outside. The fever had begun to spread, and several cases of death occurred in the early part of last week among cattle belonging to residents in the vicinity of the Texas herds. The authorities of Chicago are using every means to prevent butchers from buying any suspicious meat, and a thorough city inspection is demanded to prevent a frightful addition to the mortality list.

The stockyard drovers are offering to sell at ruinous prices, but cannot find eastern buyers. The plague will effectually stop the shipping north of Texas cattle for some time to come, and will perhaps force eastern consumers to other markets than Chicago for a supply. We see by our exchanges already an increasing activity among American buyers in Canada, which may be partially caused by the hesitation to purchase any more cattle from the west until the cattle plague panic subsides. Our Government should take immediate steps to prevent cattle being imported from the Western States into Canada until the pestilence has disappeared.

Food Prospects for the Coming Winter.

It is too early yet to speak very positively of the general yield of grain for the present season. According to the latest telegrams from Britain, the crop is represented as considerably above an average, both there and generally over Europe. We sincerely hope that such statements may be fully borne out; but there is not as yet sufficient evidence to that effect to set all anxiety on the subject at rest. It is notorious that such a drought, both for length and severity, has not been known in the United Kingdom for a very long time. Even 1826, which gives the nearest approach to it, will have to yield in this respect to the present year. The consequence of this is, that while the harvest has been surprisingly early in a good many places, it has been forced on to the great injury both of grain and straw. In some places the straw has been so short that it could scarcely be harvested; while in many more the grain has been quite scorched, and the hay crop is a failure.

The root crops have also suffered greatly, but only on certain soils. The whole system of husbandry in Britain so very much depends now upon the character of these crops, that any partial failure in them cannot but be widely and severely felt. From such considerations it may, after all, be matter of doubt whether there be such a superabundance in the grain yield as latest reports represent. In our own country it is very manifest that the hopes of a more than usually bountiful crop, generally and very naturally entertained about the beginning of the season, are not destined to be realized. There will be plenty for home use and a fair margin for exportation; but we very much doubt if the cheap loaf is to be among the notable advantages of the coming winter. The midge has been doing its work, and the long drought has also had its influence. Potatoes, we fear, will not now be greatly benefited by the rain, though were it to come immediately, turnips