

of which he was frequently to be seen. Whatever he undertook he endeavored to accomplish in the best style; and this was evinced in the management of the *Defiance*, long the best appointed four-horse coach in Scotland.

In his declining years, his taste for agricultural pursuits revived—he devoted much time and money to the improvement of the breed of cattle and sheep—and the annual sale at Ury for many years drew together the most eminent agriculturists from all parts of the kingdom. By the proprietors and tenantry of Kincardineshire the deceased gentleman was held in high esteem. Sincere, humane, truthful and bold, he held in scorn everything that was dishonorable and oppressive; and his tongue or pen was not slow to express what his heart had conceived. With the exception of the paper on training to which we have referred, a small volume of travels in America, treating principally of Agriculture, and a few contributions to the newspapers, his literary talents were not much exercised; but his knowledge of books, and of the Greek and Latin classics, was considerable, and he had mixed too much with men of all classes not to possess an extensive knowledge of human nature.

COUNTRY FARMERS AND CITY TRADESMEN.

The following letter, addressed to the *New England Farmer*, is worth the serious consideration of those young folks in the country who feel tempted to forego the advantages of the really profitable and health-giving occupation of farming, for the apparent attractions of City or Town life:—

MR. EDITOR—I am one of that great multitude of farmers' boys, who, early imbibing the notion that farming is less profitable than most other kinds of business, learn a trade, and finally find themselves city mechanics. A grand good position to look back from, and which I have long wished some one of our class, more competent than myself, would improve for the benefit of our successors; for it seems that farmers' boys, and girls too, are still looking to the shops and stores of the city, as a refuge from the poverty of the farm.

On looking back from this stand-point upon my past experience and observation, the first conviction which occurs to my mind is, that farming is *more*, and other business is *less* profitable than they *seem* to be. I have lately received a letter from a brother, who not "taking to a trade" now owns a small farm. Alluding to my old notions of the unprofitableness of farming, and to the high prices I now pay in the city for all kinds of provisions, he says, in the familiar style of family correspondence:

"On looking at the amount and variety of articles consumed and worn out by farmers; the interest most of us pay when we first begin in the world; our carriage and harness; our clothing, food, &c., for ourselves and little ones, I think, there must be profit somewhere in farming, greater than you used to allow. Look into our buttery,

our clothes-press, our cellar, our barn, and pig-pen,—nothing to brag of, as you know,—but yet enough if all were put into a bill to make quite a sum. If farmers were to give their farms credit for rent and everything you pay money for, which their farms produce, they would need something of an income to foot the yearly bill—and would find out, I believe, that farming is not quite such a poor and unprofitable business as some of us think it to be."

Farmers handle but little money, and hence are apt to look upon the weekly wages of mechanics as large, which will barely supply a family with the necessities of life. I recollect my feelings, when a boy, on hearing of a mechanic who received ten dollars a week in the city. I could hardly imagine what one man could do with so much money; or, when it was possible for others to put themselves in the way of getting such wages, anybody should be willing to starve and "gee-haw" oxen on a farm at fifty cents a day! Well, I left the farm, and have reached the goal of my boyish ambition. I am in Boston, with ten dollars a week!

But how much better off am I, after all, than most of my schoolmates are, who were compelled to work for twelve to fifteen dollars per month, while I was receiving thirty to forty? Little if any; and why? Because 'circumstances alter cases.' Before I left home I had twelve to fifteen dollars per month to pay for board, washing, mending, and other unavoidable incidentals—a very important item that farmer-boys seem never to take into account,—and then, when sick, my patcher's, apothecary's, boarding-house keeper's and washerwoman's bills were all made out on the ten-dollars-a-week system, and took off the dollars almost as fast as my pulse beat in a high fever. While the farmer-boy who works by the month is boarded, washed and mended, "in the bargain," and, if sick, is taken care of at the lowest figure, or carried home to be nursed by mother and sisters.

If the editor thinks the foregoing remarks worth publishing, I may take time to say something upon the relative advantages and trials of supporting a family upon a farm in the country, and on ten dollars a week in the city.

A CITY MECHANIC.

MARKETS, &c.

The high prices paid for flour and wheat at our last issue remains with but a very slight reduction. There appears to be but a small quantity of either in the country, but it will not be a great while before new wheat will make its appearance. There is no prospect of its reaching a much higher price, except a sudden speculative demand may for a few days increase the wants of the market. The crops generally are pretty good, and we think, on the whole, better than was expected in the beginning of the spring. Laborers appear to be the great want. Machinery is however being brought to the aid of the farmer, and there will be more in use the present season in Canada, than ever there was before.