

riding about, in parties, balls, &c., than in the details of farming, and knew the contents of every newspaper much better than of any agricultural journal. His farm became an exact reflection of its owner's character. Fences were soon obscured by belts of alders, blackberries, and burdocks; and buildings showed marks of premature age, and became dilapidated. There was a thirty-acre marsh, which might have been drained, but it never was. And there was a patch of Canada thistles which filled one twelve-acre field, and part of another, which he could have destroyed in one season, had he known how others had done. One hundred and eighty loads of manure, as estimated at one time by a neighbor, were allowed to lie a whole year about his barn, without application. His cattle were of the long-horned, big-headed, sharp-backed breed. His swine were the Long-bristled Racers. His profits in farming may be easily guessed. There was a general complaint among his neighbors, that his debts were never met within six months after the appointed payday, and that he endured a sharp dun with extraordinary patience. It is true, necessity drove him to retrench his expenses, and the improved examples about him induced him to amend his practice, but not until his farm was reduced to less than half its original size, by portions sold off at three different times to satisfy mortgages.

Well, what became of the young fifty-acre farmer, we are asked. He has ceased to be a "fifty-acre farmer." He began by examining closely what improvements could be made, of whatever character and kind, whether cheap or expensive. Among these he was compelled to select first, the cheap improvements, or those which promised the largest profits for the smallest outlay. One of the first of these was the draining of a three-acre alder swamp, a large portion of which he did with his own hands in autumn, between seeding and threshing. He had read of success with *brush drains*; he constructed all the side or secondary channels by filling them at the bottom with the bushes cut from the ground, which enabled him to accomplish the work at less than half the usual price. These brush drains have now stood many years, and the brush being wholly excluded from the external air, has not decayed, and they carry off the little water required, being numerous, and at regular intervals. Now, observe the result: The alder swamp would not have sold originally for five dollars an acre; it now brings crops of wheat, broom-corn, and meadow grass, more than paying the interest on a hundred and fifty dollars per acre, besides all expenses. He doubled his manure by drawing from the most peaty portion of this drained swamp, large quantities of muck to his farm-yard, where it was kept comparatively dry till wanted, under a cheap slab and straw shed. By paying a small sum yearly, he was enabled to improve immensely the breed of his cattle, sheep, and swine, which he thinks has returned the money thus expended at least twenty fold. The same keen attention to his business in other points, enabled him to effect many additional improvements, among which we may briefly mention a cheap and simple horse-power of his own construction, consisting of a rope running on the ends of radiating arms, which enabled him, by means of one or two horses, as necessity required,

to thrash his grain, saw his wood, drive his churn, turn his grind-stone, and slit picket-lath. It is true, he has thrown this rude machine aside for the greatly improved endless-chain power, but it answered his purpose for the time, before the days of improved machinery. But among all his outlays for the sake of economy, there is none which he thinks has repaid him equal to the subscription money applied in taking two agricultural periodicals, costing him \$1½ yearly besides postage, and which, in connection with his own experience and good judgment, have been the chief guides in most of his great improvements. He has been enabled to add sixty more acres to his land, and the whole presents a beautiful specimen of neat, finished, and profitable farming.

None of this is fiction. It was gradually accomplished by years of constant, steady, intelligent perseverance.

SOWING CLOVER WITH CORN.

Mr. Editor,—Some person may inquire about sowing clover among corn, and as it is a common practice here, and our manner of doing it appears to be somewhat different from others, I thought I would give you a brief account of it. As our oat crop here brings but a poor price, and is generally considered an exhausting one to our soil, a number of our farmers have ceased raising it, and instead of following our corn crops with an oat crop, as was our usual rotation here, we now always sow our corn fields with clover seed. We always sow it just after the double-shovel plough runs through our corn the last time. I sowed my seed this summer, in the first week of July, and the corn-field now looks fine and green, with a good coat of clover on it. A neighbour of mine has now one of the finest-looking clover fields, done in the same way, that I have ever seen. I did the same thing last year, and the year before. It affords early pasture in the spring following; and then the cattle are kept off until after harvest, when it has grown up considerably, and is then turned under for wheat. I never turned under better clover than I did this fall, that was sowed in among my corn last summer a year. Of course we do not sow it as thick as if we would want to keep it for mowing or permanent pasture. We consider that it pays us much better in the way of pasture, and then in a manure for wheat, than the ordinary oat crop would after our corn. We seldom fail here in getting it to catch, unless the season is unusually dry, and then it partially fails.

We always sow it immediately after a rain, or directly after the plough, while the ground is fresh and mellow, and it will then start at once, and if the drouth does not kill it, you will have a fine crop of clover.

HILLING CORN.—At a late meeting of the New Hampshire Legislative Agricultural Society, all the speakers objected to hilling corn. One farmer, who had experimented by hilling and leaving the earth level, found no apparent difference in the product, but found the hilled portions more likely to be broken down by storms. The other stood more firmly; or if bent, sooner recovered itself. Was not this owing to the better maturing and hardening of the roots?