

lars that might just as well have been in my pocket to-day. \* \* \* There is no getting around it, I will have to own up that I *sunk* (his italics) an even \$100 in that little operation. \* \* \* With clover seed worth about \$5, and hay about \$13, it would pay about as well, net, to cut for hay as to save for seed, take one year with another, but there is another view to take of this matter. The cutting for hay, and feeding out and handling manure, takes more hand labor, and one might as well, perhaps, spend his time at this, getting good wages for it, as to spend it in some corner grocery or other place, arguing as to whether wheat ever turns to chess (cheat), or potatoes ever mix in the bill, or whether it makes any difference what time of the moon fence-posts are set."

Now, I should be slow to hint that farmers, as a rule, would be so engaged, but I do say that nearly all must *make their money on their farms*, not one in ten thousand having the chance, like Mr. Terry and myself, to make money perhaps faster outside of our farms. And I say that Mr. Terry and I should be very careful not to recommend as wise for the general farmer what may be wise for us, solely because of our double character, first as farmers, and second as something other than farmers.

After explaining (in his 1883 article) that the slight loss of "manure value" in clover seed, "was more than made good by the chance to put the haulm on the parts of the field that needed it most, \* \* \* while if we plow under green clover, the richest portions having the heaviest crop on will get the most, and the poor spots the least," he closes with a statement so wholly sound in my opinion that I most quote it: "On my farm I think I do *just as well* [in point of 'manure value'] to plow under the haulm from the seed, or the manure from the hay, with the clover sod, after each acre *has deposited a handsome sum in my pocket*, as I would to plow under the growing crop before it has paid me any tribute."

For years Mr. Terry has been a power for good in agriculture. Most of his advice is excellent. Some of his more recent views seem to me not so wise as his earlier ones. He should not deem it unfair if his fellow writers point this out clearly and courteously. That seems the only way to reach the truth in a paper conducted on the excellent plan of the COUNTRY GENTLEMAN, viz, that of letting the contributors largely edit and correct each other's articles.

W. I. CHAMBERLAIN.

### THE DARK SIDE OF FARMING.

HENRY STEWART.

ONE of the greatest drawbacks to prosperity and pleasure in the business of farming is the want of stability and persistence in any chosen pursuit. Some men cannot even make up their minds as to how they should go about any necessary business, and consequently perform it in a most inefficient manner. They change their minds with every fancied reverse of fortune, and break up plans that have become settled by lapse of time, so that the breaking up is productive of loss and perhaps disaster. "Unstable as water thou shalt not excel", might be said of many farmers who blame their chosen pursuit for their partial failures, instead of blaming their own mistakes. There is the man who begins business as a dairyman, let us say; he goes into it with a rush; perhaps he succeeds moderately well, but he finds it hard work, needing the closest application. While it is novel, he is interested, but as the novelty wears off and he finds he is only making a bare living and is not laying up money, or able to indulge in luxuries, he becomes dispirited and wants a change. He declares that the dairy is an unprofitable business; that bogus butter ruins it, and that something else

pays a great deal better. There comes a boom in hops; the price goes up to a dollar a pound, and he gets rid of his cows at any sacrifice and buys hop roots and poles, and reads up hop-growing. By the time he has any hops to sell, spared through painful effort from the lice and mildew and the various other troubles incident to their culture, the price is down to eight or ten cents, and again he is discouraged and on the ragged edge which separates hope from despair. His hop yard is plowed up and he tries something else which is better, but always with the same result. He tires of it, or perhaps utterly fails, which is probably because of the unfortunate want of persistence, and losing at every change and turn, he is soon in distress and goes over to the dark side.

Perhaps there is no other cause of failure that is so prolific and common as this. If we examine into any special business in the grand industry of farming, we find the men entered it mostly of this class, and who have given up pursuits in which thousands of farmers live happily in sunny homes. We find the Florida orange groves *in futuro* (chiefly hoped for but not seen—as yet) occupied by many such men. Fancy-cattle men make money out of them. They are the chief purchasers of novelties in seeds, plants, implements, and all are restless, looking and hoping for some readier way of making money than persistent, effective work. The crowds of frauds, like parasites which live upon diseased matter, prey upon such misguided men and make victims of them, and every disappointment adds to their misery. Those persons who are in a position to know, the editors who receive so many urgent letters of inquiry about this new place, or that new pursuit, and which is best to be done under such circumstances as no stranger could possibly form an opinion of, know how many such unhappy, unstable, undetermined men there are existing, but not living, upon farms. A time comes to many of them at last when, like old Eneas, "tossed and driven by adverse fates" they are cast upon some shore, wrecked amid storms and clouds. Then a ray of light breaks through upon them; for they are where they cannot get away and must stick at least, and like men, go to work at whatever they are driven to, and persisting by force of adversity they finally find that they have been wasting a life in seeking. But it is thrust upon them in spite of themselves.

Many a man who has thus suffered, or who is now suffering, may look back in his childhood and see how his early training led to this instability and consequent failure. In his boyish pursuits many things were begun but none finished, and as he grew in years the habit grew, and became confirmed. This is a matter for parents to consider. They have the forming of the character of their children, and if any child has fallen into this habit they should correct it at once. To finish what has been begun, to adhere to a choice which has been made after mature and careful consideration, to persist and persevere, and never lose sight of the end in view or turn aside from its straight pursuit, are indispensable to success. Think of the men who have made a mark in the history of the time; of the leading farmers, stock-breeders, horticulturists, dairymen, all of whom are sought as advisers, leaders, teachers, examples, and what is their history? An unbroken course in pursuit of aims which they have reached, and of ends which have brought prosperity and success and honor to them.

The business of farming has two sides: one lies full in the glow of the warm bright sunlight; the other is on the shady side, buried in gloom and darkness. Every man can choose which side he will live upon. The path to each diverges from a plain road plainly, so that it cannot be mistaken. The business of farming is one in which no man can fail who uses common prudence, who is industrious, persevering, careful, foresighted, economical. It has the world's wants to supply.