

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

CONCENTRATED FARMING.

YOUR readers are familiar with the arguments which have appeared in our columns during the past two or three years, relative to the comparative advantages of large and small farms. The result may be briefly summed up by saying that a farm is too large (if only twenty acres,) when there is not enough surplus capital to give it the very best management; and not too large, even if containing a thousand acres, if the owner is able to raise maximum crops, and to conduct every part as well as the most perfect small farm. The prevalent error is the attempt to spread over much land with little means. If every one could be satisfied that he may be an extensive farmer on but a few acres, there would be less running in debt for land, and less imperfect, weedy and superficial cultivation.

There are several advantages in raising heavy crops on a limited amount of land, and several disadvantages in raising the same amount on a more extended area. It is easier to obtain eighty bushels of corn from an acre of the best land, than the same amount from four acres of poor and badly cultivated ground—the plowing and general management of the good land being about as easy per acre as the other, or only one-fourth the expense per bushel. The distance of drawing manure, drawing in crops, driving cattle to pasture, and every other operation, are much lessened on the

small and well managed farm. On the whole, it is much more economical to buy land at double price that will produce double crops; or better to expend as much more as the cost of the land in underdraining and manuring, if, as frequently happens, the productive power of the soil may be doubled.

Farmers are often not aware of the amount which a moderate farm may be made to yield in the best condition and under the best management. We propose therefore, to take as an example fifty acres, allot it to different crops, assign to each an acreable product, not greater than the average amount obtained by the best farmers, and thus show what may be the result.

While the average corn crop is not over 40 bushels, there are many who obtain seventy and upwards as a yearly average. While wheat usually yields only fifteen or twenty bushels, such good farmers as John Johnston have obtained an average of thirty or more. While many landowners cut scarcely a ton of hay per acre, such men as Major Dickinson raise an average of three tons. If the hay crop is tripled, the amount of pasturage will be increased in like proportion. Many cultivators who attempt to raise carrots and other roots, often fail by planting late or on hard and cloddy ground, or by neglecting weeds, and when they succeed get only two or three hundred bushels per acre; others, by a good