

The wages of a farm laborer in England are from forty to fifty cents a day, probably now fifty. The prices of farm produce in London, to wit, hay, wheat, mutton, beef, milk, &c., do not average higher than in Boston. The price of farming lands in England are more than double the price of farming lands in New England; but much richer in *sunk* capital.

Taxes in New England probably do not exceed fifty cents an acre, on farming lands; while in England, they are two dollars an acre. Farm laborers' wages in New England are double what they are in England, that is, a dollar a day.

Now, here are the elements of calculation or comparison, to determine whether the same farming which is profitable in England, could be profitable in New England. Observe. I say the *same* farming; for we cannot expect poor farming, without capital and skill, to be profitable in New England, while only good farming, with capital and skill, is profitable in England.

In cost of land, the New England farmer has, I think, the advantage, even after he has enriched it; in taxes, he has the advantage; in markets, equality; in wages, he pays double. Can the disadvantage the New England farmer labors under in the rate of wages be overcome? One would think that a proprietor farmer, in New England, might arrange a system of farming which calls for the least manual labor, and pay a dollar a day for labor, and do more than compete with an English tenant farmer, who pays a heavy rent, heavy taxes, and fifty cents a day for labor.

I can point to many a farm in England, of 150 acres, on which the tenant farmer pays \$1200 a year rent, \$300 a year taxes, and what are there called good wages, and clears, without much trouble, \$6000 a year. But here are the elements of his success—not better markets than ours, but a good stock of sheep of the best breeds, early fit for the butcher, yielding 80 to 100 pounds of net mutton, and a good fleece; the best breeds of cows and of pigs, his farm cultivated with a proper rotation of crops, with proper proportion of meadow and pasture, the farming not high, but such as the most judicious and economical man would approve. Would such a farm, thus cultivated and stocked, in the hands of a New England proprietor farmer, of equal skill, pay—wages being a dollar a day? If it would no profit, then our agriculture is, and is likely to be, in poor condition; if it would yield a remunerating profit, then we may yet have a rich agriculture.

To make more distinct the different results which we should have in New England, if we covered our farms with the best breeds of sheep and cattle, as the English do, that is, breeds of great precocity, and yielding the greatest weight of meat at the earliest age, I make the following statement, which is the result of pretty accurate

calculation, and will bear, I think, examination, and make clear that we may have success in our agriculture, if we will imitate those who have succeeded. The markets in England and New England being equal in price for mutton and wool, and allowing what is not true, that we get as heavy a fleece from our sheep as the English do from theirs—for every fourteen dollars our farmer realizes from a flock of sheep, the English farmer realizes from a flock of the same number, thirty-six dollars; or where our farmer realizes fourteen cents, the English farmer realizes thirty-six cents. And in regard to cattle, oxen and cows, where our farmer, from their milk, and meat, and work, realizes \$28, the English farmer, from the same number, realizes \$36; yet the English farmer never works his oxen. In the one case, the English farmer has an advantage of more than a hundred per cent., and in the other, of about twenty-five per cent. What wonder, if these things be true, that English agriculture is profitable, and our agriculture unprofitable?

Some now living can remember when it was stoutly contended that we could never carry on manufactures to advantage; but time has proved their predictions false. Agriculture is only another and higher branch of manufacturing, carried on by skill and capital, proportioned to the acres cultivated; and when the capital and skill of New England shall turn in this direction, and the love of the country, which is natural to our race, shall return to our bosoms, the present feeling of despair respecting New England agriculture will vanish away.

Agriculture is a art of slow growth, not a science; though science may, and has contributed to its progress, in a degree. In its first stages, agriculture is imperfect and poor, depending almost wholly on the natural fertility of the soil, and poor methods, and not on the skill and capital of man. In this stage it remains, until commerce and manufactures have developed themselves. Then it is found that to feed the cities, and towns, and plains, where manufactures have fixed their seats, agriculture must be developed into an art, requiring skill and capital, as much as any branch of manufacture. If, after manufactures and commerce have been developed in a State, the people have not energy and skill, then, to bring agriculture to a higher development, the whole State languishes, and individual distress, poverty and emigration prevail, and national decay follows. Wise and good men have thus far, watched agriculture in New England, through its primitive stage, in which it relied on the natural fertility of the soil, and as this wore out, have seen the rural population grow thin through emigration, and by engaging in commerce, and navigation, and manufactures; and these good men have not despaired, but have been diligent in stimulating the agricultural spirit of the people, by organizing agricultural societies, establishing

agricultural publications, invoking the aid and patronage of the State, importing the best breeds of cattle, and used every method and endeavour to inaugurate in New England, the second stage of agricultural development, in which skill and capital make agriculture the fruitful mother of harvests and men. These men have never been wanting in hope, and faith, and patience; and others will see, if they do not, the results of their works. M.

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GROWING FRUIT FOR MARKET.

In *The Horticulturist* for August we find the first of a series of papers on "Visits to Country Places around New-York," from which we select the following account of the fruit-growing operations of our friend Dr. I. M. WARD, of Newark, N. J.:

We first visited Dr. I. M. Ward, near Newark, N. J. The doctor is engaged in the laudable pursuit of fruit culture, for the New-York market. This he does from a love of the subject, no less than with a view to the benefit of himself and his family; his example is one which we should be glad to see followed by other gentlemen, who, by showing what may be done by the employment of capital and intelligence, will be the means of teaching others, and thus a better supply of wholesome fruit will be at the command of our great cities, now but half supplied. The demand appears to be unlimited; in New-York, for instance, his agents, the middle men, a class of honest dealers who have risen up since the mode of sending fruit by wholesale, instead of accompanying it, and chafing for the market value, keep an account of the quantity received from each cultivator, and allow full returns in a most business-like way. Thus one of the most serious difficulties is obviated. Dr. Ward employs pickers at so much a bushel or quart, and by the hour; he can be mostly at home to superintend these operations; the fruit is forwarded by a regular steamboat, consigned to the middleman, who receives it within an hour or two, has his market engaged for each variety, and the distribution goes on like clock-work. You may leave Dr. Ward's at breakfast time, and dine at Delmonico's, on his strawberries, which were being picked when you started; or be at a private party in the Fifth Avenue, in the evening, enjoying his grapes or pears, which left Newark at four o'clock.

The proprietor enjoys a great advantage of his own; as the fruit ripens by degrees, the first picking of grapes, blackberries, or strawberries, being insufficient for market, the family have the earliest for themselves and their friends, and, by the time the period of abundance has arrived, they have probably had sufficient to satisfy all, and can devote the whole remaining crop to sales. Dr. Ward has five acres of strawberries, an acre and a half of raspberries, one acre of grapes, two hundred cherry trees planted along his paths and roads, in such positions