

the surface of the drain, turned bottom upwards, and pressed down with the feet to render them close and solid. When the drains are covered in, the soil immediately over the drain ought to be left a little higher than any of the other parts, because it invariably sinks down and diminishes. Drains must be placed nearer together or at a greater distance from one another, according to the degree of humidity of the land which they are intended to dry. In thorough draining in England, the intervening space is generally from 18 to 36 feet. The deeper the drains, the further they may be apart. Whenever the requisite materials for filling up the drains, are procurable upon the spot, the expenses of the operation of draining are trifling compared to the advantages the land derives from it. It is very desirable in draining, that the bottom of the drains should rest upon a hard stratum, and it would be best to sink them deeper, even to fully four feet, if this hard stratum cannot be obtained at a less depth. In any attempt to drain, it is essentially necessary to understand clearly the cause of the wetness, and the nature of the soil and subsoil. When this is ascertained, if the work is executed properly, it will generally repay the expenditure, but if not properly executed in every part, the whole expenditure may be so much capital thrown away. Before the work is commenced, the probable expense should be ascertained, and it should not be commenced, unless there is means to complete the work properly.

"THAER."

### SELF IMPROVEMENT.

"The proper study of mankind, is man."

So thought an old poet, and undoubtedly he was right. But, if we were to judge by the studies pursued by the great mass of mankind, we must come to a different conclusion. The acquisition of wealth seems to be the study of the present age, and gold is sought, it may be as eagerly, and at the same expense of health, happiness, and life, by him who digs the soil, or wields the hammer, as by the individual that "leaves all" and seeks treasure on the brilliant banks of the Sacramento, and both may be equally deaf to the exhortation of the wise man—

"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold"

Human nature is the same everywhere, its study is the same, and a knowledge of it is of great importance.

"Know thyself." This should be engraven as with the "print of a diamond" on every one's heart, and kept continually before the mind. Such a study, rightly conducted and persevered in, would lead to the important duty of self improvement. That should be the object of study. Wiser and better, should be the sentiment. To labor with our hands is not our whole duty. The

intellect must not be neglected. To improve in the management of business, is well; to improve the mind is better; being a greater result, and which will lead to the other.

How shall we improve?

Train the mind to right reasoning. There is a class of persons that are sadly deficient in this important faculty. Rising up early and sitting up late, and laboring hard, they can scarcely keep free from pressing want. The fault is not in their labor, but in their plans,—in the arrangement of their business. They do not adopt the best method to perform their labor, and consequently work to disadvantage. It is of no kind of use to be "hurried to death," from early in the spring till late in the fall. Sit down and calculate, taking all things into consideration. See how much you can plough, plant, hoe, and harvest, and then go to work systematically. Not only estimate the amount of your labors, but to do everything the best way, and do one thing at a time. It is folly to commence a piece of work and leave it half finished or something else, to be left incomplete. What ought to be done should be finished, and what ought not to be done should be let alone.

Cultivate order. "Order is Heaven's first law." How much pleasure there is in contemplating a well ordered family, or a *well ordered farm*. But some men are "terrible slack!" Look at their farms and you see it at once. Every thing is at loose ends. Their implements are scattered around, and exposed to all the variations of the weather. The space around their front door, may be, is a repository for hay carts and harrows, sleds and slabs, apple tree brush and ash barrels, and all the odds and ends that accumulate during the labors of the whole year. Where an article was last used, there it may be found. Having "a place for every thing and every thing in its place," will remedy all these evils. But an apple tree is no place to winter a scythe, nor the road side a place to summer a sled. All tools and implements when not in use should be kept under cover.

Be observing. Look around you and see the various methods in which your neighbours perform their labors. Do not suppose for a moment that you know more or can calculate to better advantage than others. Learn from the superior knowledge and tact of all with whom you are acquainted. Make your observation and experience available for your future improvement.

Read, study, and think. Every farmer should take an agricultural paper,—and that is not enough. Neither is his duty done when he pays for it. Nor should he be satisfied by simply reading it. It should be studied. Its suggestions should be reduced to practice whenever they can be made beneficial. The knowledge it contains should be treasured up, that we may compare others' experience with his own, and