

BELGIAN HUSBANDRY.

In no part of the world has the cultivation of the soil attained greater perfection, than in Belgium; and the numbers of a work devoted to a description of the husbandry of that country, and the manner in which, by persevering industry, its barren sands have been converted into the most fertile of soils, are not the least valuable of the series published by the London Society.

Farmers in this country, speak of the impolicy of extensive outlays in improving their farms, "It will not pay the expense," is the objection most frequently made, and one which is the most forcible, in reply to those who urge upon them systems, for the permanent melioration of their soils. We have sometimes been disposed to consider this feeling of regard to immediate expense or profit, more as the natural result of that restlessness of character, which is said to belong to us as people, and which leads us to suppose, with reason, that what will not pay now may be lost to us for ever, as from our known migratory propensities, it is scarcely probable our lands will remain in our hands, or those of our children, for any considerable time, rather than of any disinclination to encounter the labor which an improved husbandry requires. The benefits of a good system of farming, or the evils of a defective one, can only be fully seen and appreciated in a considerable term of years; on such lands as the greater part of those in this country are, when brought under cultivation, what may be called the *skinning or scourging system*, in which, repeated crops, with little labour and no manuring, are taken off, may be the most profitable for the time, although fatal to the soil and the prosperity of the farmer in the long run; but when the permanent value and productiveness of lands are taken into consideration—when it is remembered that it is much easier to keep lands in heart, than to restore them when reduced to sterility; and that the eventual agricultural prosperity of a country is dependant on a correct system of management, the importance of selecting the best models, and conducting our farming operations with reference to future results, as well as present profits, becomes perfectly evident.

To illustrate the effects of the two systems of farming, or rather, to show the results of the improved one, as compared with that generally practiced with us, we give a few extracts from the papers on Belgian farming; and the first is a description of a farm of one hundred and forty acres on the river Lys near Courmay.

"Of this farm, near twenty acres are in fine meadows along the river, occasionally flooded in winter, but not irrigated. About ten acres are rich heavy land, adjoining the meadows, in which beans and wheat thrive well: all the remainder, about one hundred and six acres, lies in an oblong form, bounded by a hedge row; at one corner of which, nearest the river, stand the farm buildings. A road or path, six feet wide runs through the middle of the field and the road or path that leads to the farm-yard skirts one end of it. The soil of this large field, is a rich, light loam, which lies over a substratum of clay, but at such a depth as to be perfectly sound and dry: it is not very fertile in its own nature, but has been rendered so by many years of an improving husbandry; every part of the land has been repeatedly trenched and stirred *two or three feet deep*, and the immense quantity of manure, chiefly liquid, put on year after year, has converted the whole into a rich mould; the strength and vigor of the crops bear witness to the goodness of the husbandry.

"As we walked along the path, which is just wide enough to admit the wheels of a cart, the whole produce might be seen at once. The flax had been pulled, and remained stacked on the ground; the colza (cole, or rapeseed) had been beaten out, but the stems remained where they had been cut; there were fifteen acres of most beautiful flax, of a bright straw color, and the stems a yard long; this, besides the seed, was worth in the stack, from twenty-five to thirty pounds sterling, per acre; twelve acres of colza had produced about four hundred bushels of seed; eighteen acres of oats looked so promising, that they could not be set at less than seventy bushels per acre; eighteen acres of wheat, which stood well, with short, plump ears, were estimated at forty bushels

per acre; eighteen acres of rye, with straw six feet high, would probably produce rather more than the wheat. There were six acres of white poppy, of which every plant was strong and upright, and the produce of which was estimated from twenty to twenty-three bushels of seed per acre; six acres were in potatoes, expected to produce at least twenty-two hundred bushels; about an acre was in carrots, which looked fine and large; twelve acres were in clover, nearly the whole of which was cut green, as food for horses and cows, and produced three good cuts in a year; the ten acres of heavy land were partly in beans, and partly in wheat; and the stock kept on this farm consisted of twenty-seven cows in milk, five or six heifers, nine horses and three colts."

CURE FOR A FOUNDERED HORSE.

I send you the following prescription, which, you may give a place in your useful paper, if you think it will be of any advantage to planters and travellers.

As soon as you find your horse is foundered, bleed him in the next in proportion to the greatness of the founder. In extreme cases, you may bleed him as long as he can stand up. Then draw his head up, as common in drenching, and with a spoon put far back on his tongue strong salt, until you get him to swallow our pint. Be careful not to let him drink too much. Then anoint around the edges of his hoofs with spirits of turpentine, and your horse will be well in one hour.

A founder pervades every part of the system of a horse. The phlegms arrest it from the blood; the salt arrests it from the stomach and bowels; and the spirits arrest it from the feet and the limbs.

I once rode a hired horse 99 miles in two days, returning him at night the second day; and his owner would not have known that he had been foundered if I had not told him, and his founder was one of the deepest kinds.

I once, in a travel of 700 miles, foundered my horse three times, and I do not think that my journey was retarded more than one day by the misfortune, having in all the cases observed and practised the above prescription. I have known a foundered horse turned in at night on green feed; in the morning he would be well, having been purged by the green feed. All founders must be attended to immediately.

—South-western Farmer.

A WORD FOR THE BOYS.

Well, boys—I have taken my pen again to say a few words more about the hot days and the cold days, and the like—As I said before, there is no denying but there are some things of that kind not quite so clever. But then there are other things to be thought of at the same time. Probably some of you are thinking what a fine thing it would be to be a merchant, or to get an education so as to be a Lawyer, or a Doctor, or a Minister; you think it would be so nice to be dressed up clean all the time, and not have to work. Well, it will in all probability always be necessary that there should be some men in all these vocations. But you should recollect that although they do not require so much hard labor with their hands as farming, they all have their troubles, their perplexities and their vexations—in fact their *hot days* and their *cold days*. Very possible you might find one of those employments more pleasant during your term of apprenticeship, than the labors of the field. That, however, would be but a brief period, soon past and gone, and then comes the work of life. Yes, the work, though not perhaps of the hands. And only think; those vocations, at least the two first, are already crowded beyond excess. Ten to one probably more than the good of the community requires, and swarms every year still flocking in. Among them are undoubtedly some of our most respectable, honorable and useful men, and some of them get rich. But among the great mass their avarice, or their extravagance, or their necessities, together with the excessive competition that exists, too frequently leads to practices of mean-

ness, impudence, and knavery, and any amount of wealth, which may be in some cases accumulated by such despicable means, should be considered as too dearly bought.

Besides, there are multitudes who, failing in their great object of getting rich, continue to live and pass along through life, "nobody knows how"—in short these two vocations, as they are managed at this day, are certainly among the last into which I should wish a son of mine to enter. If you should have any doubts on this subject, just make inquiry of any *honest* man in either branch of business, (possibly you may find one) and ask his opinion.

As to manufactures and the mechanic arts, if a boy has any particular inclination for any one of them, I would by no means dissuade him from learning it. They seem, however, to be crowded although to a less extent, than some of the pursuits above mentioned. But I would say let him go with a full determination to spend all his leisure hours in study, and to obtain such a knowledge of the sciences as will enable him to stand in the very first ranks of his business, whatever it may be.

And now, boys, at least all you who have an itching to be gentlemen, or, to speak more correctly, perhaps, to live without work, I would advise you and urge you, before making up your minds to quit that dirty, old-fashioned business called farming, to think long and seriously upon the subject. This idea of getting rid of hard work, and the hot days and the cold days, is all moonshine, there is no reality in it. You will find them wherever you go, into whatever pursuit you enter.

These are some of the reasons against going into other pursuits, which have come into my mind, and I think they are pretty strong ones, which you who have been brought up to farming, ought well to consider. But they are by no means all the things that are to be taken into account: I believe that it may be easily shown that these hardships which are sometimes to be met with in farming, may be, in some measure, avoided, and that even when you are obliged to come right up and take them by the horns, they are not so *very bad*, as they seem to be a little farther off. And that after all you do not in reality, care much about them. And then there are the innumerable sources of the purest and most substantial pleasures within reach of the intelligent farmer, and which he has but to open his eyes, to enjoy, which are opened in so great provision to no other men on the face of the earth—I mean the pleasures which would flow from a knowledge of the sciences to which I directed your attention in my former communication. Of them it may be truly said, "they are not hidden from thee, neither are they far off, neither are they beyond the sea, that thou shouldst say, who shall go over the sea and bring them unto us but they are very nigh unto thee." Much more should be said on this part of the subject than my present limits will permit, perhaps, if time and opportunity will permit, I may call your attention to it at some future time.

UNCLE JONATHAN.

Sept. 5, 1843.

COST OF A LAW-SUIT.—The spirit of litigation was, perhaps, never carried to a greater extent than in a cause between two potters, in England, for the sum of two pounds nine shillings and a penny. After being in chancery for eleven years, it was put an end to by arbitrators, who determined that the complainant filed his bill without any cause, and that he was indebted to the defendant; at the same time, the sum for which he had brought the action. This they awarded him to pay, with one thousand guineas cost.

RATHER SEVERE.—"If I give you an office," said a man in power to an applicant for a place, "will you aid the party in carrying out its principles?"

"I should most willingly," said the other, "but I don't believe the party has got any principles."