

STRAY HINTS ON GENERAL MATTERS.

EXPERIENCE ON A TEN ACRE FARM.



"TEN acre Farm" seems rather small to the ambitious minds of most farmers, but, when you utilize ten acres in an economical, judicious way, there is quite enough to occupy the time of the average working man, that is, if he works as well as *manages* his little domain. Some men do not work themselves, but manage only, depending on others to do the work for them. Such require more land from which to realize a fair margin of profit, yet, their risks are *greater* and the satisfaction *less* than if they listened to the old adage, that,

**"He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive."**

There seems to be an exquisite pleasure connected with eating anything you have cultivated with your own hands; partly, because if you are in the habit of working, you are apt to have an appetite to relish what you eat, and, partly, because you carry out the divine principle of industry, which, if acted upon by mankind at large, would banish many of the "ills that flesh is heir to," and carry prosperity and comfort into many a household, where misery now prevails. Where intelligence and manual labor are combined, there is sure to be something good and profitable resulting from the combination.

The great study of the future must be the utilization of smaller areas of land to produce corresponding results. If ten acres can be tilled to show the same margin of profit as often results from fifty acres in the usual mode of cultivation, a step in advance is made by its possessor, and a grand achievement obtained for future generations to profit by.

It pays, then, to let ambition for large cultivation subside into a determination to make the most out of a smaller compass, and let wisdom and intelligence make up for what one may lack in acres. The more the appliances of science and good management are brought to bear in tilling the soil, the more interest and importance attaches to it. If we can make the tilling of the soil an interesting and profitable occupation, and keep the children of farmers from rushing into the towns and cities to seek more "interesting" callings, there will be a point gained worthy of much endeavor to bring it about. Surely, the quiet and purifying influences of country life are much to be desired to the feverish, jostling, scheming influences of city life, by every one who has a heart to appreciate the handiwork of an all-wise Creator. Some one has beautifully said, "God made the country, but manmade the towns."

Now, as to our "hints." From experience on a ten acre farm, we find it *pays* to keep one horse and three good cows. The horse, of course, is an indispen-