

'How do you manage to get so much money together these hard times?' I said.

The answer was—'My cattle turned out well.'

'How many did you fatten?'

The reply was—'Six good ones.'

'What had you for them?'

'Oh, just turnips and grain.'

'How many acres of turnips?'

'Seven, and all were good.'

'But seven acres were a great many to house?'

'Ah, but I pitted most of them, and only took in my root-house full at a time.'

'What is the root-house made of?'

'Mine is made of logs, but most of my neighbors have stone root-houses.'

'How many cattle do you generally reckon an acre of turnips will fatten?'

'Just about one, besides keeping all the rest of my stock, and I have a good many; but I do not feed all turnips, that would be too cold for them. I give, besides, peas and oats. I feed all the peas and oats I grow to the cattle, and also all the hay, and that gives me good manure; but with all, it does not give me enough?'

'Do you grow wheat?'

'Yes, but not much; a little fall wheat and a little spring, but no more than I can help, as it does not pay.'

'Do you grow barley?'

'No; peas and oats pay better, as I feed all to the cattle, and get the manure; if I grew barley, I should be forced to sell it off the place, and then the farm would suffer.'

'Seven acres is a good deal for a man to do. How do you manage about hoeing and manuring?'

'Well I manure the fall previous, and plough it in; then it is well rotten in the ground next year when I sow my turnips; and besides that, the ground is so moist that I never have any trouble in getting them up. If I manure in the spring, I should be obliged to manure in the drill, and then the ground is too light and spongy, and dries up, and the young plant either misses, or when it does come up, withers away; whereas, when the manure has been in the ground all the winter, the whole of the soil feels it, and the plants grow right away. I sow the turnips in drills, of course. I sow with the hand barrow, with two rollers—one before the seed and one after it—so that the ground is always firm and well pressed down; I make the rows from thirty inches to three feet apart, and I calculate to leave the turnips at eighteen inches apart in the drills. I hoe them with the horse hoe between the rows, and then single them with the hand hoe. If the season is dry, the horse hoe kills everything that is not in the row with two hoeings; but if it is wet, we have to go over it several times, as it is required. Our horse-hoe widens as necessary, and the knives overlap, so that it makes clean work; and as we can do with a horse from two to three acres a day, we don't spare the hoeing when wanted.'

'What about hand hoeing?'

'We go over the rows twice; once to cut out generally, and second time to single the plants. We always calculate to cut close round, so as to make the plants fall down. In the wild country we always made every turnip plant fall over, one way or the other, and thought they came on all the better.'

'How do you harvest them?'

'We go along the rows with the hoe, and nick off

all the green, then turn them out with the plough, and so get them out of the ground.'

'When you pit them in the field, how much earth do you put on them?'

'Not more than four inches in the solid, and we never make the heaps large; we are always afraid of heaving and rotting.'

'Well, but the turnips must freeze in the winter.'

'They don't freeze much, and if they do, they are better to freeze than to heat. If they are cold for the cattle, the grain warms them.'

'How do you manage the turnips in the root-house?'

'We pile them so that there is a good draught all round and through them, and we take care to make the oor of rails and poles, so as to have a good ventilation. Then we keep the house well aired and open, except in the very hardest weather, when we close it. We are always careful to keep the turnips as clear from dirt as we can, so that they never choke and heat in the heap in the house.'

'Do you raise the cattle, or buy them?'

'We raise all we can, and buy the rest.'

'What do you consider a purchased beast ought to produce before you sell him?'

'Well, whatever you give for him, we take care that he doubles it at least before we sell him; if he won't do that the profit is not worth having.'

'Do you find that your farm gets enough manure?'

'Not so much as I could wish, but we are very careful to get all we can. We always have enough for a good crop of roots, and something over.'

'Except, then, what wheat you raise for your own use, and a little to sell, everything the farm makes is consumed on it?'

'Yes; if it was not for that the land would be getting poorer; as it is, the whole place is getting better every year.'

'How came you to pay so much attention to turnips?'

'Oh, we were just driven to it. The wheat failed, so that we were getting worse every year, instead of better. Now we are doing well.'

'Did you ever grow mangels or beets?'

'Yes and they did well; but I gave them up, as they required more hard work than turnips, as we have to single them all by hand, and the turnips do so well that I do not care to be looking for anything else.'

'How do you like the broadcast turnips?'

'They do better than any other in new ground, when sown thinly; but we do not get on at all with broadcast in old land.'

'I suppose you, as an old countryman, were surprised when you came here to see our light steel, hoes and forks, &c., of the American pattern?'

'Yes indeed, I was, and well pleased too. When I went to the old country, two years ago, I found them all still working with the old heavy hoes and forks, made of iron, and each a load of itself for a man, and I could hardly get them to believe that we in the new world were better off for tools than they were in the old.'

'Well, but they are better off than they used to be in that respect.'

'No—not a bit. I found the same tools I left there twenty years before, and no improvement. We are greatly ahead of the old country in Canada, with our farm implements and tools.'

Now, if any one wants a better essay than this on turnip growing and successful Canadian farming,