

persons who have, by means of education, reading, and society, acquired a certain degree of refinement, become dissatisfied with agricultural life, and have sought the city. Intelligent, educated men, can not surely remain satisfied with being mere growers of grain and breeders of stock,—they must love their home; and to merit their love and attachment, that home must possess something of beauty, for the love of the beautiful is an instinct of man's nature. A large portion of the population is continually on the move;—the old home has no hold on their affections—or at least not enough to overcome the novelty of a new one. We see the population diminishing in the very heart of the finest agricultural districts in America, where nothing is so much needed as human beings. It is at certain seasons impossible to procure laborers enough to do the work. This state of things is unfavorable to the perfect development of the country's resources, and equally unfavorable to the attainment of a higher and happier social condition.

It is not unreasonable, we trust, to expect, and even to urge, some reform on this point. Make home attractive; cultivate the taste, and feelings, and affections, as well as you do your fields. Why should a wealthy farmer, with his 50, 100, or 200 or 300 acres of land, content himself with a rod or two of a door-yard, and a dozen of shade trees, shaped and managed after the precise fashion of a village plot? Why can he not, just as well have a park and pleasure-ground of several acres around his house, broad glades of lawn, and groups of trees, separated from the cultivated portions of the farm by green hedges? This, with a well stocked orchard and good ample kitchen-garden, would come up to our ideas of a country home; and it would be impossible for children to grow up in such a home without becoming attached to it, and having their tastes expanded, their feelings refined, or without appreciating the comforts and blessings of a country life. A rod or two of a door-yard for a farm house!—what a mockery! There is something incongruous in the very look of it that cannot fail to strike every observing person.

But some careful farmer will ask us, "How can we afford to lay out parks and pleasure-grounds, and keep them in fine condition? It would cost us more than the whole labor of our farms. Only think of what an expenditure of money and labor this hedging, and planting, and mowing this pleasure-ground would involve. It would be all very well if we could afford it; but that we cannot, and we must leave it to retired gentlemen who have made their fortunes in town, and come out into the country to spend them."

But we reply, You can carry out our plan without incurring a heavy expense. Hundreds of farmers in our own county can make such a park as we propose, without feeling the cost. Fence off, with Osage Orange or Buckthorn, at a cost of about twenty to twenty-five cents a rod, five to ten acres of land immediately around your dwelling. Seed it down, and it will produce good crops of hay. You can get plenty of young Maples, Elms, Tulip trees, Basswoods, Ash, and other native trees, in the woods,

which can be taken up and planted at leisure intervals in the fall, when farm labour is over, and early in spring, before it commences, and even during winter, in mild weather. Until the trees are well-established, it will be necessary to cultivate the soil around them. It will not be necessary to cover the whole ground with trees, but merely to scatter them here and there in groups, and singly, to give it a park-like character which will distinguish it at once from the cultivated fields. A little can be done now, and a little again, as leisure affords; and in a few years the work will show. Meantime the land is cropped profitably; for hay is always a paying crop, and an indispensable one. The ground nearest the house may be planted with some rarer trees—a portion of them evergreens. A small portion of the ground near the house might be separated from the main body of the park by a wire fence, or moveable hurdle fence, and kept mowed; and if embellished with a few flowering shrubs, and a few beds of flowers, all the better. But these, for economy's sake, can very well be dispensed with. When the planting is finished, and the trees fairly established the park might be pastured with sheep, as many parks are in Europe; and thus it would always have a closely cut surface without the expense of mowing, and the sheep would be an interesting feature in its scenery. When forest trees are not within reach, we would recommend the raising of them from seed, or small plants can be purchased at the nurseries for \$2 or \$3 per 100, which, with a couple of years' growth in nursery rows, will be fit for final planting out. Only go about it, and the means will not be wanting.

#### MEANS OF AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE.

What are our principal means of obtaining a knowledge of Agriculture here at the present time? I make this inquiry, because I wish to know whether or not we are employing sufficient means for the education of the rising generation who are to occupy the land of their fathers, and to cultivate its rugged soil. Canada, under skilful cultivation, is capable of producing all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life in great abundance. Still, in order to compete successfully with other portions of the country where but little knowledge and effort are required in cultivating the earth, the Canadian farmer must possess superior knowledge of the business so as to be able to husband all his resources to the best advantage. It will not do for him to skim over the surface, to scratch the soil and cast in his seed, and expect an abundant harvest. No; what he most needs is practical knowledge or science; for it is this alone which can enable him to render the rough and rugged soil productive.

Let us briefly enumerate some of our principal means of acquiring agricultural knowledge, and endeavour to ascertain our real condition and prospects.

The first means of acquiring this knowledge is in the family, on the farm. This is very different on different farms, and in different towns and neighborhoods. On some farms it is good, very good; on others, it is tolerably