

# The Farmer's Journal.

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## Visit at Tiptree-Hall.

If there is in England, a farm whose creation is a wonder, it is certainly that of Mr. Mecki, at Tiptree-Hall, near Kelvedon. This farm, universally known in the agricultural world, is justly celebrated for its whole, whether as constructions, the rendering of lands wholesome, or distribution of manures.

Let us say first that the farm of Tiptree was fifteen years ago but a waste land, the impermeable, and wet soil of which produced nothing but heath. Mr. Mecki, rich esquire of London, selected that piece of land, because he was desirous to prove to the agricultural class that with capital and intelligence, there is no soil, however ungrateful it may be, which cannot become a fertile land giving to the farmer the greatest known yield.

Now the facts have justified the calculations of Mr. Mecki, who may now proudly show the results obtained on his farm, as a proof of his assertions. The finest fields often border the unproductive land, and form abundant wheat crop, to the waste land, there is only the space occupied by the quickset edge which separates them.

Mr. Mecki, when he first cultivated his property, understood that he should first improve the soil. Is it not in the soil that manures are decomposed? that plants spread their fibres to draw the elements of their nutrition? Lands had then to be drained, to take away the surplus water. The water which brings to the plants the substances which feed them, becomes a poison for them

when it cannot flow off and is consequently stagnant. This operation of rendering the lands wholesome is the first of all the operations to be made by the farmer who has a strong clay soil.

When the drainage, the rendering of lands wholesome (by means of tiles) was ended, Mr. Mecki applied lime to his soil. This lime which would have produced no effect on a wet land, because in contact with water it would have made a useless mortar, produced on the same land *rendered wholesome* a wonderful effect.

We know that strong clay land have many defects. They are difficult to be worked, heavy at the time of ploughing which are well made only when the soil is wet enough and not too much so. In summer they harden, crack and break the roots of the plants &c. &c., but especially the manures applied to clay lands, have but little effect on the crops. Clay has the property of retaining the necessary substances to vegetation. Lime has the advantage of diminishing to a great extent these defects. It makes the soil more easy to be tilled, but especially it facilitates the decomposition of manures which can no longer be retained by the clay.

Mr. Mecki entirely changed his soil, first by drainage, and afterwards by the application of lime. Then the strong manures applied made the rest, and the soil became by degrees what they are now, that is excessively fertile and yielding the highest products to be had in England. While his land was improving and wanting manure, Mr. Mecki built his farm buildings which now offer a perfect whole. The thrashing machine is moved by steam which also moves root slicers, straw cutters, pounders, millstones. The straw is stored in a loft above the fattening cattle, and the greatest quantity of it is used as litter; it is so for all the other fodder