

### Domestic Economy.

In looking over my returns, I was struck with the remark of a man of much practical wisdom, and one of the best farmers in the Commonwealth. He says "that a farmer should produce upon his farm all those supplies for his family which the farm can be made to yield." In his case, this is done within doors and without; for there the spinning wheel has not forgotten to turn round, nor the shuttle to speed its flight. In this cottage, whose neat and beautiful arrangements cannot be surpassed, the clothing, the bedding, and the carpeting were all the product of all their own fields and flocks. I shall not soon forget the unpretending and hearty hospitality of these enviable dwellings. I have slept many a time under a silken canopy, and trodden many a carpet as soft as the pride of eastern luxury could make it; but never with anything like the sentiment of honest pride and independence with which I saw here the floors spread with carpets made from their own flocks, which for fineness and beauty the foot of a princess need not disdain, and on a cold night slept in woollen sheets from their own looms, as soft as the shawls of Cashmere; and wiped my face with towels spun with their own hands from their own flax, of a whiteness as transparent and delicate as the drifted snow. In such beautiful examples of domestic management, it is delightful to see with how limited means the best comforts and luxuries of life may be purchased. Nor were these instances few. The county of Berkshire abounds with examples of this domestic comfort and independence. Much to be regretted will be the change which has already invaded many parts of the State, when under the pretence of superior cheapness, these household fabrics shall give place to the more showy but flimsy products of foreign industry; and the healthy exercise of domestic labor and household cares shall be deemed degrading in our wives and daughters, and exchanged for the idleness and frivolities of pride and luxury.

I agree entirely in the sentiment above expressed, that every farmer should, as far as possible supply the wants of his family from his own farm. He should supply himself with bread, meat, vegetables, milk, butter, cheese and clothing, as far as his farm can be made to do it. He can almost always do it at a less expense than he can purchase these supplies. The labor requisite for this purpose may often be given at times when it would not otherwise be occupied; and by hands for which there might otherwise be no employment. The sentiment of self-respect and self-dependence inspired by such a course, is a great gain. The satisfaction of eating bread raised by one's own labor is not small; and various and important moral influences, which I shall not now discuss, render it altogether desirable; though in some cases the same amount of labor consumed in their production, if applied in other ways, would purchase a larger amount of the same supplies. Though the supply of our own great wants from our own farms, might seem, however, in some cases, to be a pecuniary loss, it is always in the end a moral gain, with which the pecuniary loss is not to be put in competition.—*Colman's Surrey.*

### European Farming.

I think that the superiority to be observed in British and Flemish agriculture is to be attributed to the nice adaptation of crops—the perfect system that prevails in every department—the free outlay for manures to invigorate the soil—the patience that never tires in the completion of a task once undertaken, and the industry that in no kind of weather, at no season of the year, fails to remember and perform its tasks and duties.

England is remarkable for confining to certain districts, the productions which flourish best in those soils. Thus the light sands of Norfolk are best adapted to turnips, sown off and followed by barley and clover, therefore in that country the rotation of turnips, barley and clover prevails. It was by this course that Mr. Coke (Earl of Leicester), reared from perfect barrenness his splendid estate at Holkham. Warwickshire is famous for beans as a first course, followed by wheat.—Lancashire for potatoes as a first crop, wheat and timothy following.

Not less perfect is the system: each one has his part and his duties assigned to him—he is there at all times, and in all weathers, and he stipulates to be only there. And this system pervades all things on the farm.

Upon a farm in Surrey, where I spent six pleasant and agreeable months, I had the opportunity to see the use and the profits of systematic farming. It was a hay farm, of less than two hundred acres—the rent paid, about \$2000. The whole farm, except the garden, was mowed. After the hay was taken care of, the fields were all shut up until there was a good feed upon them. Then Mr. R., went to the nearest fair and purchased large beeves nearly fat. In these fresh, luxuriant pastures, where the grass grew almost fast enough to render not fabulous Sir Boyce Roche's story of the kite thrown into an Irish meadow over night, hidden by the grass next morning, the beeves became in a very short time fit for Smithfield or Old Leadenhall. After a few days' rest, the fair was resorted to for a second drove of cattle of smaller size, but in good flesh, which soon shared the lot of all fat oxen, and became the roast beef of old England. The fields were no longer in a condition to make beef, and therefore, were to furnish the predicament "nearly fat" to take the "first bite" in some unfed meadow. The fourth course was a herd of small Welsh cattle to be merely improved. Fifth and lastly came sheep to be kept till the meadows began to start in the spring, when they were sold, and the meadows shut up.

To recruit this farm, the carts which took the hay to market returned laden with manures to be used as a *top-dressing*.—When not bringing back provisions for farm use, I think I may say they always came back with manures. I had some years ago in my possession a book, which was borrowed by some kind friend or other, and he liked it so well that he forgot to return it. This book gave the best account of the English practice with respect to manures, of any I have ever seen. It was said in that book that five thousand tons of manures had been applied in one year on a single estate. I know that the quantities are immense, and that the lands in that country are kept in a high state of fertility by the axiom impressed on the husbandman that *food is as necessary to the earth as to the human body*. But do not think that I have selected a pattern farm for the subject of the foregoing remarks. It was in all respects only a medium farm. There could not be the same opportunity for the more elaborate practices of husbandry that there is in large Yorkshire farms. It is my opinion that some of the best managed farms in England were on the estates of the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe, in Bucks. It is, however, the *fashion* in England to patronize agriculture: heaven grant it may become so here. You can form no idea with what ease an American can introduce himself to the English, if he is fond of farming. The gift of a few ears of Indian corn to the Horticultural Society brought me tickets and invitations without number to their gardens and fetes, at Chiswick.—*Far. Mon. Vis.*

TO CURE WARTS ON COWS.—A writer in Bell's Messenger says, a solution of alum in water applied to warts on cattle, will effect a cure in a few days.

FATTENING POULTRY.—An experiment has lately been tried of feeding geese with turnips, cut very fine and put into a trough with water. The effect was, that 6 geese, weighing only 9 lbs. each when shut, actually weighed 20 lbs. each, after about three weeks feeding with this food alone.

Malt is an excellent food for geese and turkeys. Grains are preferred for the sake of economy, but will not fatten so fast.

Oats ground into meal and mixed with a little molasses and water; barley meal mixed with sweet milk; and boiled oats mixed with malt, are all excellent for fattening poultry, reference being had to time, expense and quality of flesh.

Corn, before being fed to fowls, should always be crashed and soaked in winter, or boiled. It will thus go much further and digest easier. Hens &c. often lay in winter when fed in this manner, especially if well sheltered.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

A HORSE POWER REAPING MACHINE.—By Mr. G. Read, 76 Barclay-street, New-York. This is the most rationally constructed machine for cutting grain, that has ever been introduced. It is mounted on one pair of wheels, and the horse by which it is operated, travels forward by the side of the standing grain, while the cutting apparatus projects to the right about four feet; and taking a swath of that breadth, cuts and gathers the grain and deposits it in quantities suitable for binding, and at stated distances on the ground at the opposite side of the machine; while the attendant has only to sit on a convenient seat provided for him, and guide the horse. On fair ground, one machine will cut twenty acres of grain per day, and in better order than can be done by the best grain cradle.

TOBACCO CHEWING.—The St. Louis Gazette goes into a calculation to show the amount of tobacco a man chews in a lifetime. The Editor says:—"Suppose a tobacco chewer is addicted to the habit of chewing tobacco fifty years of his life, each day of that time he consumes two inches of solid plug, which amounts to 6,375 feet, making nearly one mile and a quarter in length of solid tobacco, half an inch thick, and two inches broad." He wants to know what a young beginner would think if he had the whole amount stretched out before him, and he were told that to chew it up would be one of the exercises of his life, and also that it would tax his income to the amount of \$2,095. We guess he would think it a pretty considerable job.

HORSES AND OXEN FOR TEAMS.—I have observed that in many places horses have taken the place of oxen, are used for the purpose of farming, introduced, I suppose, under the impression that they are better adapted to the service, and more profitable to the owner. I am not about to contradict the truth of this supposition, or prove that a man cannot plough and harrow as fast and as well with horses as with oxen, but shall merely mention a few of the comparative merits and demerits of these animals, that may determine which is most useful and profitable.

The horse, when put to service, must have arrived at his full strength and value, consequently there is no gain on the capital invested, besides what arises from service, and as he is good for nothing at the end of service, there will be a discount at least equal to the amount of his cost.

The ox may submit to the yoke when young, and partly remunerate his owner for cost of keeping, while obtaining his growth, when he may be sold to the butcher, and the money invested in younger stock; thus