

Necessity of Capital being Proportioned to the Size of Farms.

(From British Husbandry).

We frequently see indications of a strong desire in the farming community, to undertake larger farms than prudence would allow, or than a limited capital could possibly stock or cultivate properly: by which means the parties thus acting not only find themselves embarrassed in their circumstances, being not only unable punctually to meet their engagements, but under the disagreeable necessity of neglecting some thing or other which they know requires immediate attention, in order to obtain therefrom any ultimate gain or advantage. To be aware of this cannot fail at all times to be both irksome and annoying; and the better the farmer understands the management of his crops, &c., the greater will be his mortification to see his lands neglected for the want of sufficient capital to enable him to cultivate them properly. Moreover, we have sometimes known it happen that a farmer, in consequence of want of capital to enable him to manage his affairs properly and judiciously, has undeservedly acquired the reputation of a bad manager, which ever after has stuck to him, when, had he possessed the means, not any of his neighbours would have cultivated the farms better or more judiciously, nor have sustained a larger reputation among the best class of farmers.

The disadvantage of engaging in a larger farming business, than a person's means will warrant, is certain to involve him who does so in a numerous train of difficulties, and to reduce his profits upon all the produce which he may have to dispose of. If his capital will not allow him to purchase sufficient stock of the proper kind and quantity, it cannot but be clearly apparent that his profits upon this particular head, will be smaller than they otherwise might have been. And as respects his crops, either the requisite amount of labour and expense will not be bestowed upon them, or else not in due season; so that under ordinary circumstances, it would be absurd in him to look for as good crops, as others on the adjoining farms where ample means had been enjoyed, of bestowing all necessary care and expense upon them. Then, as regards markets, the needy farmer is ever obliged to have recourse to his stock or his store-yard, to meet both the direct and incidental expenses that may come against him and his establishment, whereby he has not an opportunity of regulating his sales by the rise or fall of the market prices, for he must sell, however low the market may be, in order to meet the ordinary payments that are continually coming against a farmer, for domestic supplies, wages, &c. How different off is the farmer who has got a little surplus capital where he can at any time command it, should an advantageous outlay warrant its investment. Besides, should an unfavourable season take place, or a great depression of prices in agricultural productions occur, he will then be able to reserve his stock and crops instead of disposing of them at a great disadvantage, his small reserved fund or capital being sufficient to meet all immediate demands. An anonymous writer, but evidently a person of experience, makes the following very judicious remarks:—The bad success of great numbers of farmers is owing to their not having sufficient capital to begin with, which invariably involve them in difficulties, and reduces their profits upon every article of produce. Their farms are unstocked; they necessarily sell at a disadvantage; their fields are scarcely half cultivated, and in a short series of years,

unless some lucky hit sets them up, they become abjectly poor, in spite of all possible industry, judgment and application."

Next to the want of capital in farming in order to insure success, is the want of judgment: and where this is the case, we usually find either too much, or too little stock upon the farm, and the kind and quality of it not at all proportioned to the nature and extent of the productions of the soil. One would suppose that it required no great deal of experience to be aware of the fact, that ten much-cows well fed, and properly attended to, will yield a greater profit than twelve, or even fourteen that are ill fed, and otherwise neglected. But too little stock, as well as too much may be kept, and either extreme is equally wrong. It is not, however, altogether in the improper manner of stocking a farm, that the want of judgment is apparent, since the nature and amount of agricultural implements necessary to carry on the various processes of husbandry upon a farm of certain extent, should be clearly comprehended by the practical farmer: for where there are many more implements and utensils than are really necessary, it is ten to one that those not in use will not have proper care taken of them. Besides capital thus invested would be uselessly sunk. On the other hand, a deficiency of those things most commonly employed about a farm is a continual inconvenience, and often causes a great sacrifice and waste of time.

The foregoing observations are perfectly correct. Without sufficient capital to stock a farm properly with cattle and implements, and to pay for the labour necessary to be expended in the judicious cultivation of crops, it will not be possible to farm with either credit or advantage to the farmer, however well qualified he may be in every other respect.

POTATOE PLANTING.—Upon a field uniform in its quality of soil, and equally manured, was planted, one-third of a certain space, with cut sets of potatoes in the usual way, one-third with whole potatoes large, and one-third with whole potatoes of middling size, of a rounded form, and of about an inch and a half in the smallest diameter. The culture was the same in every respect, and upon digging and weighing the potatoes of each compartment, the result was in proportion, as follows:—

Produce of potatoes planted by cut sets	8
Ditto by whole potatoes of large size	10
Ditto by whole potatoes of middling size	12½

Agricultural Societies.

The following observations, on the Bill of Premiums offered by the Stamford agricultural society, England, for competitors at the exhibition that is to take place this year 1812, may be interesting:—

"The premiums, with one or two exceptions, are but slightly altered from last year's bill, but those exceptions are, we apprehend, of a nature to stamp the meeting with a character for novelty and utility never before attained by a local society. The first is a case for Youngmen who have taken first prizes in this or other societies, and the competition among the Crichtons of 'wheel or swing ploughs' will necessarily be of the most interesting nature. It is a challenge to all the best ploughmen of England for a

Champion's Belt, the possessor of which may well be proud of his hard earned prize. The second and more intrinsically valuable of the introductions, is for an essay on the best mode of managing the Wheat Crop, and when we consider the vast body of intelligent practical men who abound in the district, we feel we shall not be encouraging a vain hope in expecting the result of this premium to be the publication of a map of most useful information. True it is, that folios have been written upon this subject, and by the first professors of the age too; but we cannot help thinking that the very greatness of the talent employed to illustrate this most vital matter, has proved in a degree a bar to its practical utility. Learned men write and speak in the language natural to them—and the body of the agriculturists who are called upon to put into practice the theories of talented authors, too frequently find themselves involved in all the intricacies of technical generalities, and abandon that which is really good because it is rather incomprehensible. There is much more benefit to be derived by the practical agriculturist from the result of such meetings as we have had the pleasure to attend in the Rutland Farmers and Graziers Hall, than from the most elaborate eloquence of a Whewell, or a Buckland; and we believe that a familiar essay on the management of wheat, written by a person who has practiced what he preaches—by a neighbour or a familiar friend—adapted to the district in which both writer and readers reside—may have the effect of at least calling attention to so important a subject, and of improving the science upon which a people's bread depends. Other subjects will, in successive years, offer them for familiar explanation—among which draining, the insects destructive to agricultural produce, and manure will not be forgotten."

The Agricultural Societies in Canada may take a useful lesson from these observations.

Smut in Wheat.

James Ellis, Esq. of Barming, in Kent, informed the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, of the invariable prevention of smut in wheat, which had for thirty years, and on a farm of from 200 to 350 acres, attended his scalding the blackest wheat in boiling water, and afterwards drying it with lime: the wheat placed in a culender, or basket, being immersed in boiling water for a few seconds, just long enough to corpletely wet it, then immediately dipped in cold water; and afterwards dried with lime, mixed with the other wheat and sown. By this means the wheat was always found to be cured, while the vegetating principle was uninjured; great care being taken that the water was boiling, and the wheat taken out of the water as soon as completely wetted.

Mr. Ellis tried an experiment on a bushel of the blackest wheat he could procure, which he divided into sixteen equal parts, sowing them all on the same day but with different treatment. The result at harvest was, that the wheat sown without preparation produced thirty-three black ears out of every hundred, while that dipped in the boiling water and lime, had not a black ear in several thousands which were examined,