

PREFACE.

WITHOUT economy or order, farming business cannot prosper.

These two elements of success are almost always to be found in cultivation of the land on a very small scale. The working man, who, for the support of his family, depends entirely upon the produce of his garden or his little field, will soon be made to feel the fatal effects of a want of order : in his case, want of economy is starvation, want of order, ruin.

It is in farms of a middling size, from 30 to 80 acres, that most commonly, waste of time, carelessness, and irregularity, are to be seen, because they are for the most part in the hands of the least educated class of farmers, and the land being of sufficient extent to supply the most pressing wants of the family, from the natural productions of the soil, the faults may exist for a long time with impunity : in this case, the farmer aided by nature, which provides him with pasture, exerts himself just enough to *scratch over* a portion of his land, and sow some grain, upon which he depends to help him through a bad season, without much trouble : it never enters his head to improve his cultivation or to lay by : all he desires is to get through the year with as little privation as possible.

Farming on a large scale cannot be carried on long without order and economy, for whoever undertakes it, being under the necessity of employing a great many hands and keeping up a large establishment, will soon come to the end of his means, if he do not prevent all waste, cut off all useless expenditure and adopt a judicious system of operation.

What then is order and economy ?

By order, I mean not only the care that a farmer should take to keep everything in its proper place, but also the attention he should give to the regularity in each department, the working together of every branch of his business, the faithful and exact account of his receipts and expenses, and the placing them both under their proper heads.

It would be a great mistake to assign to economy, merely the meaning of a niggard parsimony in the ordinary household expenditure. There is another economy more likely to be felt in balancing the receipts and disbursements of a farm, the economy of time and labour.

Economy and order are the easily recognized signs of a well conducted farm. You will find at the head of such a farm, a sensible man ; one, who weighs well beforehand all his orders and his acts ; a minute and careful record of every