

mily, and in his dwelling and furniture; he should be liberal in feeding his stock, manuring his land, and in supplying labor to work his land. I have seen many farmers who were kept always poor by trying to do too much work for the number of laborers employed, whereas if they had hired double the labor, it would have paid abundantly. This is a very common mistake."

Other professions are now crowded to overflowing, and only a few can succeed in them. Show us the city family who has not some dear relative reduced to penury by the late commercial crisis, while even with the present disastrous condition of the country, the farmer is enabled to pursue the even tenor of his way, and if he be distressed at all, it is mainly in his commiseration for the mercantile, manufacturing, and professional classes.

The best proof of the general success of farming, is the fact that young men well educated in scientific agriculture, are sought for at much higher prices than are received by the plodding clerks in banks, counting rooms, &c., and it would be difficult to suppose such a young man unable to procure land to cultivate on his own account, if he desired it. Were it not for our great expanse of country, we should soon find that this most successful of professions, farming, would give the same fictitious condition to the rental of land, as is given to city property by the competition in mercantile matters.

Is Farming Profitable?

This has been so often unanswered, that perhaps our readers will turn away from this article in disgust. But we do not think the subject is yet exhausted. Other men than farmers are entitled to have an opinion respecting it. Any man of common intelligence, especially if he is acquainted with the general condition of farmers, and the details of farm life, may form as correct an opinion on the subject as the farmer himself. By the term "profit," perhaps, we are apt to refer too exclusively to pecuniary results. The great pursuit of man is said to be happiness. But is it wise to measure the amount of happiness by the amount of money which men acquire?

Do observation and experience prove that the former is necessarily or uniformly in proportion to the latter? Although a certain amount of wealth undoubtedly contributes to our happiness, yet other elements must be taken into the account. Health, longevity and independence, certainty, freedom from exhausting care and anxiety, and various other circumstances must be considered in estimating the profitability of any business. In the first place, we think it will not be doubted that farmers, as a body, enjoy a greater measure of health than any other class of men. They are stronger and more robust and retain their strength and vigor to a greater age than other men. They live longer on an average than any other class of men, which proves not only that their course of life is conducive to health, but that their labor is of a less exhausting character. Labor in the open air is always more healthy than labour in the shop, the counting-room or the

study. Many other men who live and labor in the open air, as the hunter and the sailor, are subject to greater vicissitudes, exposures and dangers than the farmer, which often exhaust their health and cut short their lives. The circumstances under which the farmer labors in the spring, the songs of the birds, the fragrance and beauty of the flowers, the vigorous growth of the spring crops, and in the summer and autumn, the consciousness that he is reaping the reward of his labor, all tend to promote cheerfulness, hope and satisfaction.

The farmer's life is more uniform than that of most other men, and when the labors of the day are ended, he sleeps quietly in his bed, secure from danger and the inclemencies of the weather. He is not subject, like the traveller and the sailor, to changes of climate and temperature. He is accustomed to the climate in which he lives. His diet is plain and substantial. It is rare that he is required to make unusual efforts, or, like the soldier on the march or in battle, to make extraordinary drafts upon his strength and powers of endurance. Hence, as might be expected, statistics show that the farmer lives to a greater age than most other men.

Farming is safer than any other business. The navigator, the fisherman, the trader pay large sums for insurance. Indeed, so great are their risks that they cannot afford to carry on their business without insurance. But the farmer can afford to be his own underwriter. With reasonable skill and diligence, he is sure of the ordinary results of his business. It has been stated, on good authority, that ninety out of a hundred who engage in trade in our cities fail in their business. On the other hand, observing farmers have estimated that not more than five per cent. of those engaged in farming ever fail. Many of our young men enter upon the business of farming heavily in debt. If they take the homestead, they have to pay legacies to their brothers and sisters. If they purchase a farm, they pay a part, and take the balance on credit. Yet in most cases they work out of debt, and in a few years own their lands free of incumbrance. Is not here sufficient proof of the safety and certainty of the business of farming?

We are acquainted with a farmer less than forty years old, who is very apt to complain of the unprofitableness of farming. Now let us look at the facts in his case.

He inherited less than \$2000, and married a wife who had about \$2000. He purchased a farm for \$2000. Built a house which cost, say \$1800. Built a barn which cost as much more. Here was an outlay of \$5,600. He has now his house well furnished, 16 cows worth \$25 each, a yoke of oxen worth \$100, two horses worth \$100, a carriage worth \$100, a good stock of wagons, carts and other farm implements, worth say \$300—making his farm stock worth \$1000. He has dug ditches, laid walls, reclaimed swamp lands, and in various ways improved his farm, until it is now worth, say \$8000. He has paid his debts and is now free from incumbrance. Here is a man who has doubled the value of his property, has an excellent wife and four promising children—has