

is devoted to some special crop. The owner who raises nothing for market but potatoes or onions or broom corn, and who has a special soil particularly adapted to either of these crops, and who always keeps his working horses in stables, has no need of division fences, but these are rare exceptions. We have known the owner of a large meadow bordering a small river, whose annual revenue came from the sale of the hay which grew on this meadow, and which he could sell at a handsome profit before cutting. No team was required for driving the mowing machine; and no manure was needed for top-dressing the land, as the whole was annually flooded and thus top-dressed with the washings from the fertile country above, and for nearly half a century there had been no deterioration. But such special exceptions are not one in a thousand, and are not to be expected.

In common practice, farms require more or less division into fields. It will however, make a great difference whether

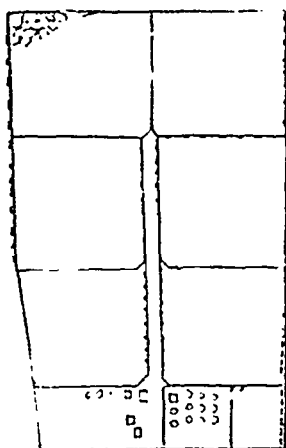


Fig. 2.—Laid out better.

this division is awkwardly accomplished, or the arrangement is effected so as to afford the greatest practical convenience in all the operations of the year. A single awkward turn in a lane, to be passed a hundred times in the year, should be carefully prevented; and hence the importance of avoiding the many awkward turns which may be seen in a badly laid-out farm.

Among the many ill-shaped farms which we have seen, a single specimen is given in fig. 1. There are enough fields for the adaptation of a good rotation; but some of them are so remote from the barn that it is nearly impracticable to reach them with the manure wagon, in the absence of a good farm road. To reach the rear fields, and to draw the harvested crops from them, two other fields must be entered, one a corn field and the other a meadow; and in another case a wheat field was injured by driving a small herd of cattle through it. Fig. 2 represents the plan of this farm after being newly laid out, in doing which the first thing was to provide a good farm road, which was afterwards made hard, smooth, and as nearly level as the ground would admit. Every field had an entrance from this road through a self-shutting and self-fastening gate. When manure was to be applied to any field, it was easily driven over this good road, and deposited in the required field without interfering with any other. With the same convenience the harvested crops were conveyed from the field to the barn.

Sometimes farms have irregular boundaries, and have an irregular surface to the ground. Some skill is needed in such cases to take advantage of the irregularities. Fig. 3 repre-

sents such a farm before it was regularly laid out; and fig. 4 the same arranged with several fields. The dwelling and farm buildings, situated near one corner, are at the same time placed so as to be easily reached from every field. The woodland in the rear corner lot, standing on high ground, gives a curve to the road so as to approach it by a gradual ascent.

Much has been written of late years by way of objecting to "useless fences," to which no one will object who has to pay their large cost, and the inconveniences they impose in occupying ground where they are not wanted. But other



Fig. 3.—Rough farm.

than by feeding animals wholly by soiling, the writers do not point out the better way. We give a plan applicable to small farms (fig. 5), where a system of rotation is adopted with half the number of fields, or less, usually employed in the course. We may suppose the course to be corn, oats, wheat, young grass, meadow and pasture. Instead of six or eight fields, there will be only three or four. The essential part of the course consists in placing two crops in one field, and keeping the pastured animals in a single or double field, so that they will not disturb the cultivated or growing crops. These may be, in a farm of 80 cultivated acres.

- 1.—10 acres of corn, and  
10 acres of oats and barley, in one field.
- 2.—10 acres of wheat, and  
10 acres of new meadow in the second field.

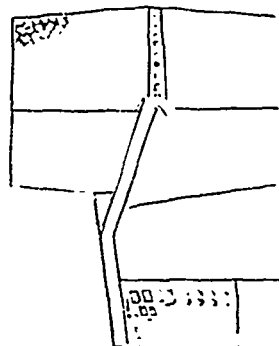


Fig. 4.—The same laid out.

- 3.—20 acres of pasture in the third field.
- 4.—20 acres of meadow in the fourth.

These four fields, and their crops, may be regularly changed in position annually. It will make little difference how the three cultivated fields are re-arranged yearly, but it is essential that the two pasture lots be included in one field, in order that the animals may be within their proper bounds, and not damage other crops.