

same state. A venerable septuagenarian of Sheffield in reply to certain questions for information, in speaking of the early settlement of the country, says, "The new rich intervale produced exceedingly fine crops of grain and vegetables; corn, wheat, oats, flax or buckwheat, and superior grass, for more than twenty years. The system of rotation cropping or of manuring so as to prevent deterioration of the soil seems to have been unknown, or not practised until recently." He then goes on to say, "An intervale farmer asked my advice about a piece of meadow, which he knew I was well acquainted with as having been exceedingly fertile, but now very poor. To my enquiries as to how long since it had been ploughed or manured, he said, he believed it never had been ploughed or manured. This man was 56 years old, had been born on the farm, which he had inherited from his father. The soil was of the richest kind of intervale, and I well remember when it produced superior crops of corn, hay, oats and turnips." He then goes on to say, "I regret that such bad management and want of skill is too frequently apparent; a general belief prevailing that good intervale might be mowed annually, and closely pastured in the fall, without impoverishing it." I fear my friend Perley and his neighbors in Blissville are labouring under the same delusion. In reply to my enquiries respecting the rotation of crops in Blissville, he says, "Our farming is carried on without paying any particular attention to a regular rotation, as we think the same kinds of grain will produce successfully on the same piece of land twenty years in succession by a small application of manure. In this opinion I believe we will be sustained by some eminent farmers, although many think otherwise." Blissville may stand this depleting system for a few years longer; but the end must come.

As a natural consequence of this gradual deterioration of the soil, there has been a proportional falling off in the numbers and quality of farm stock. My Burton friend, from whose statement I quoted the average of crops for that Parish, and whose grey hairs testify his long experience, in speaking of stock says, "I can remember back 40 years well, and how was it with the stock at that time? Could we look into the farm yards of Jacob Loder, Holland Bridges, Jeremiah Burpee, James Taylor, Col. Miles, Samuel Nevers, and some others 40 years back, who were called good farmers at that time, we should see fine cows and large oxen that would girth over seven feet, well proportioned with heavy bodies and short legs. One of those oxen or cows was worth two that we now have. More butter and cheese was made in those days from one of these farms, than is made by four of our farmers now."

But this depleting and deteriorating system appears to have passed its nadir, *except in Blissville*, and we are beginning gradually to ascend the path of improvement. An idea seems now generally to prevail, the result of long and dear bought experience, that taking all the land can yield and giving back as little as possible is not, under any circumstances, the most profitable way of farming. Most farmers are beginning to see the propriety of adopting some sort of rotation of crops, though few carry it out into anything like a regular system. My Burton friend, whose opinions I have already twice quoted on other subjects, says, in reference to his own practice, "The meadow lands generally as soon as the grass begins to fail, which is in from 4 to 6 years, is, if possible, ploughed and *two crops* of oats or buckwheat taken, potatoes next well manured, and then laid down to grass with a crop of wheat or oats. From *pasture* lands we take *two grain* crops and then lay down to pasture for 5 or 6 years."

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