

MONEY-MAKING IN FARMING.

IN a recent article under the title of "Concentrated Farming," the results to be anticipated from the application of increased capital in our Farm Management, were illustrated by a comparison between the profit of getting a certain product from fifty acres by good farming, or from one or two hundred acres farmed in the usual way. In a paper read before a foreign Farmers' Club a few weeks ago, under the title of "High Farming, and where is the money to come from?" a similar calculation was presented, when a warm discussion followed, and one of the speakers brought forward the common objection that it is well enough to give such advice, but "what will be the consequence if everybody follows it?" All the old-style farmers present took this to be a "poser." "If all the farmers in England go into the market at once," said the objector triumphantly, "for three pounds' worth of manure per acre, what point will the prices of these fertilizers reach?" and another of the same school of thinkers shortly after said, not less decisively, that a policy had been advocated "which, if carried out, would leave half of the country out of cultivation." Now this was up in the County of Cumberland, into which the spirit that animates the more productive and richer English districts, has not yet very deeply penetrated, and where moreover Mr. Mechi had not very long before made a visit, and so completely startled all the time-honored opinions of the inhabitants by some of his very biggest stories, that they were evidently taken by surprise when they found that any such heterodox doctrines should actually have sprung up in their own midst, and at the same time completely on their guard not to be "bamboozled" by figures or reasoning tending in the direction of the worthy Alderman's astounding statements.

Now we have ourselves heard the corresponding question frequently put—You advise us to farm fifty acres *well*, rather than a hundred badly—but what will become of the rest of the farm, and of the half of the State, that is thus abandoned? The answer that at once suggests itself seems to be purposely overlooked,—that but very few—it is astonishing how few—will really act in accordance with the spirit of the recommendation, and that those who do so will consequently profit by the slowness and negligence of their neighbors. When Sir Robert Brisco, the author of the paper

above referred to, urged an increased expenditure upon artificial manures, he was very well aware that his advice was not likely to exert a perceptible effect upon their market value,—but, for the place, it was probably good advice for all that. And so when we suggest the application of increased capital, either in more labor, or in draining if necessary, or in buying better stock, or in any other requisite direction, providing it be judiciously done, the picture never presents itself to us of one-half or two-thirds of a farm suffered to lie wholly idle, nor of a large proportion of the State given up to the wayward control of Nature. On the contrary, we are reminded of cases in which men have put their energies and brains into the land, one field after another, recognizing the true economy of liberal expenditure to bring them into the right condition, and extending this process in a series of years, until, finally, not one-third nor one-half of the farm alone was yielding a proportionately liberal return, but nearly or quite its whole extent.

When we noticed the first chapters that came to us of Mr. Mitchell's entertaining narrative of experiences on his Edgewood farm, we did not know whether the sequel was to give the balance sheet of the undertaking or not, and since the book has been before the public, we have not before had an opportunity of alluding to the subject. Many of our readers have the work, and can consult it for themselves; but for the benefit of those who have not, let us examine very briefly what was there accomplished. The lesson of all that Mr. Mitchell writes on the subject "Does Farming Pay?" including a graphic picture of how it is generally made to pay by the "fore-handed" Yankee cultivator, viz., by the closest of economy and the 'cutest of bargains,—is this: that "the faculty of right-spending is at the bottom of all signal success in agriculture, and in other business pursuits." Like most men who have been accustomed to business habits—and, we may add, unlike farmers as a class—he has kept accurate accounts, and he gives them, fractions omitted, not to show that he has himself achieved "signal success," but to prove we presume that his experiment in farming has not been merely for amusement, and that instead of being discouraged by the investments required at the outset, he was on the way to an end that has shown the correctness of the principles on which he was acting.