

nothing but his own capacities and energies as capital, does a very good five years' work, and may deem himself fortunate if he finishes it so soon."

Probably no man in this country applied scientific facts to practical agriculture more successfully than Prof. J. Mapes, to whom Mr. Greeley refers in the first of the following paragraphs. He illustrated "scientific farming," by raising such crops as filled those who saw them with wonder:

"Walking one day over the farm of the late Prof. Mapes, he showed me a field of rather less than ten acres, and said: 'I bought that field for \$2,400, a year ago last September. There was then a light crop of corn on it, which the seller reserved and took away. I under-drained the field that fall, ploughed and subsoiled it, fertilized it liberally, and planted it with cabbage; and, when those matured, I sold them for enough to pay for land, labor, and fertilizers altogether.' The field was now worth far more than when he bought it, and he had cleared it within fifteen months from the date of its purchase. I consider that a good operation. Another year the crop might have been poor, or might have sold much lower, so as hardly to pay for the labor; but there are risks in other pursuits as well as in farming."

"A fruit-farmer on the Hudson above Newburg showed me, three years since, a field of eight or ten acres which he had nicely set with grapes, in rows ten feet apart, with beds of strawberries between the rows, from which he assured me that his sales exceeded \$700 per annum. I presume his outlay for labor, including picking, was less than \$300 per annum; but it cost something to make this field what it then was. Say that he had spent \$1,000 in under-draining, and enriching and tilling this field, to bring it to this condition, including the cost of his plants, and still there must have been a clear profit here of at least \$300 per acre."

"I might multiply illustrations, but let the foregoing suffice. I readily admit that shiftless farming don't pay—that poor crops don't pay—that it is hard work to make money by farming without capital—that frost, or hail, or drouth, or floods, or insects may blast the farmer's hopes, after he has done his best to deserve and achieve success; but I insist that, as a general proposition, *Good Farming* does pay—that few pursuits afford as good a prospect, as full an assurance of reward for intelligent, energetic, persistent effort as this does."

#### REPAIRS ON THE FARM.

The *Journal of Agriculture* contains valuable hints upon a subject which is of very great interest to every farmer—the repairs on the farm:

These ordinarily cost more than most farmers would be willing to admit, and in many cases three times as much as they need to, for the reason that the team is stopped, and a hand sent to the mechanic, several miles away, to get some little job done that any farmer of ordinary ingenuity could do in half the time the messenger is gone to the mechanic's, if he had a few tools, and a little of the proper kind of material.

The thrifty farmer will always lay aside pieces of timber of different kinds, to be used for repairs.—These he often finds in his wood-pile, and he lays them up where he can get them, or send a boy for them at any time. He will also have a box of

screws of different sizes, with a good screw-driver and several gimlets. That first and last of all carpenter's tools for the farmer, the drawing-knife, will be at hand; also a box of different sizes of bolts, with nuts and washers to match; a brace and a good set of auger bits, from three-eighths to seven-eighths, and three augers, one inch, one inch and a half and two inch. These, with a hand-saw, make a very respectable kit for a farmer, and if he has any skill at all in using them, he will sometimes save much more than the cost of them in a few months.

Let any farmer, who has been accustomed to run to the shop for every little repair, supply himself with such things as we have named, and do his own repairing, and he will be agreeably surprised at the difference in his mechanics' bills.

Then there are the barnresses. If the farmer uses several of them, he can save several dollars in the course of the year by having on hand two or three awls, a shoe-knife, a ball of shoe-thread and a ball of wax, all of which will cost less than a dollar, and will last several years.

When wheat sells at seventy-five cents a bushel, farmers will do well to look carefully to the incidentals.

#### A WASTED FERTILIZER.

The *Southern Farmer* (Memphis, Tenn.) in an article written by a professor of the University of Mississippi, says, in speaking of the utilization of human excrements:

"That the waste in cities has been fearful hitherto, but that it is to be hoped that the earth-closet will go far to prevent this unnecessary waste hereafter. The dried and pulverised earth will be conveyed to the houses of consumers, as coal is now; and after use will be taken back to be re-prepared, and when sufficiently enriched will become an article of commerce."

Not only has there been this waste in cities, but in the country. Little thought and less care has been given to the matter; and hence, instead of five or ten loads of the best fertilizing material that every ordinary sized family should make, there has been almost a complete loss of the whole.

When will farmers understand that a failure to save all enriching matter means a failure in business, not complete, but in proportion to the suicidal loss?—*Heath and Home.*

#### FARM GLEANINGS.

A Minnesota farmer, the past season, raised 60½ bushels of Canada Club Wheat from two bushels of seed.

As an evidence of the prosperity of Virginia, it is said that swamp land which, before the war, was sold for one dollar per acre, now brings twelve.

The *Western Farmer* says there is a project on foot to establish a second beet sugar manufactory at Fond du Lac, Wis., with a capital of \$300,000.

The Duke of Sunderland is a large land owner in England, and it is said he proposes dividing his large farms into small ones, thus entirely changing his system of letting.

It is suggested that the absorbent properties of dry earth, of which such excellent use is made in the recently-introduced earth closets, can also be taken advantage of in horse and cattle stables.