

to those who are too distant to watch the daily practice on it; and, while it thus extends the instruction the farm purposes to convey, it will record much that would escape the closest observer. The journal will really make the farm the farm of Ulster.

It is evident, at first sight, that a strong line of distinction lies between the experimental and the model intent of the farm, the first being appropriated to theoretical, crude, and doubtful experiments, entailing expense without certainty of profit—a searcher for truth, and inquirer for facts. The latter, although in it may not be possible, nor perhaps desirable, altogether to exclude experiments, yet they should be limited to the more practical objects of agriculture, should not involve much extraordinary expense, and should be morally sure of exposing to no loss. The expenditure on this part of the farm ought not to exceed the average of that which the persons could reach to whom it is proposed to serve as a model. We are in this respect, too, to recollect it is not intended to convey instruction to the rich and educated capitalist, but to the humbler and less wealthy class of farmers, the men, indeed, who are rather guided by what they see than by what they can reason upon. It is to the experimental part of the farm that the inquiries of the former must be directed.

Although, in the establishment of model farms in general, we should be guided in the amount of capital we appropriate them—not by that which would ensure the highest interest for our money, but by the average of the farming capital of the neighbourhood—and, though our outlay must not exceed that which the farmers whom we would lead into our plan of tillage could afford, yet, under the peculiar circumstances of a model farm, established in the wealthy neighbourhood of Belfast, for the service of a wide range of country, some little more capital may be employed than the farming wealth of the country it is intended to reach would authorise.

There exist some other difficulties in making a farm near Belfast serve for a model to a distant country in the market the town affords for certain products which would not be found in the country. It may be a question whether we should submit to loss by an abnegation of the advantages our position would afford, or whether we should make the most of it.

The simplest way would be in cropping, manuring, &c., to throw out of view the vicinity of Belfast, and to act as though the farm were located at a greater distance, so as to fit it for a school of instruction to such a range of country as may be supposed to be under the influence of the Chemico-Agricultural Society of Ulster.

In the management of this farm, we do not now require to press on the public the advantages we derive from the alternating of green and grain crops, even horsefeeding itself scarcely need be urged; these must, however, necessarily enter into its economy, but we want to

show how a capital which is inadequate to these purposes may be so productively employed as gradually to supply us with the means to enable us to pursue these objects to the extent of what is designated “highfarming.” I believe such a system may be found possessing an elasticity which will suit it to any amount of capital, and which will at once find competent the money capital of the country which is so deficient, and take up the labour capital which has hitherto been considered so superabundant.

It is simply to avail ourselves more than we have been used to do, of the natural means of fertilising our lands, by mechanically keeping the soil open, at all times, to ærial influences and making our grain crops, equally worked, fallows with our green ones.

It is notorious that a very great deal of the lands of Ireland are in an unproductive and supposed exhausted state—that the rents and taxes of such land are nearly altogether paid out of the lands that are presently productive—that these unworked fallows slowly, through ærial influences, recover fertility—that if these fallows were worked, but uncropped, they would, in a much shorter time, recover their fertility—that, indeed, by ploughing, grubbing, &c. these lands, so as to prevent the formation of superficial crust, which obstructs the inflow of the atmosphere, light rains, and dews, we in twelve months render the soils, which we have exhausted of their immediate available elements of fertility, capable of returning a remunerative grain crop.

In making our grain crops fallows ones, we obtain a great advantage over the weeds, with which, instead of being engaged in a perpetual struggle, we at once close accounts, and thus throw the whole force of the soil into production of the crops we cultivate, while we prepare the land for reception of the small seeds of our green crops.

We have ample proofs that as large crops may be produced in grain sown at sufficiently wide intervals to admit of fallowing operations through the whole period of its growth, as by broad-cast tillage, and we have as good proofs that land will produce several successive remunerative crops of grain, without manure, in consequence of these fallowing operations; there exists, then, nothing to object to this system on these points. This system, in its clean tillage and free exposure of the growing crops to light and air, will be found valuable to the wealthy farmer, by counteracting the injurious effects of over-luxuriance, superinduced by heavy manuring; while it will assist the struggling man with his inadequate means by permitting him to lay them all out on a portion of his land, while he avails himself of the natural sources to fertilize the rest, laying on this last only that labour of man and horse, which we know very often lie idle, and from this land he then will obtain returns that he now rarely acquires from land on which he has employed all his means to force a crop.