

The people, thus shamed into activity, and encouraged by the vigour with which their minister laboured, the work proceeded rapidly. The road was finished; and afterwards a bridge, though at first considered an impracticable task by those who had never been accustomed to works of industry. Thus a communication was opened to Strasburg; and the advantage of it was so obvious, that they were easily persuaded to open roads by which all the five villages could easily communicate with each other; the good Pastor still working harder than the rest, but not neglecting to instruct them every Sabbath in the doctrines and duties of religion. A depository was much wanted for agricultural implements; for when any of them happened to get out of repair, two days were lost in procuring others from Strasburg, and the peasants had not always money enough to buy. To remedy this, he fitted a warehouse in Waldbach with a large stock, from which he supplied those who stood in need, giving them credit until they could pay. He established a lending fund, to assist those who were in want of money. He chose several of the eldest boys, and sent them to Strasburg to learn the trades most necessary for the wants of the people. Their dwellings were also improved: in place of their wretched cabins, comfortable cottages with good cellars to preserve their vegetables, were gradually introduced.

To overcome the reluctance of the peasants to the diligent cultivation of their land, Oberlin determined to set before them the practical proofs of its advantages. There were two gardens belonging to his house, which were constantly passed by the people. With the assistance of a favorite servant, he set about improving these. He surrounded the young trees, already planted, with richer soil, and planted a variety of fruit trees in the ground, which was known to be very

poor. They flourished rapidly; and as the peasants passed by the gardens in going to their daily work, they observed the surprising difference between their own and their pastor's land; and enquired how such fine trees could grow on such a soil. Oberlin, according to his usual method of deriving instruction from every incident, first directed their thoughts to Him who "causeth the earth to bring forth her bud," and who "crowneth the earth with his goodness;" and then proceeded to explain the method by which, under providence, they might have the same success. The taste for planting was thus diffused; the very face of the country was completely changed; the cottages, which before were bare and desolate, were surrounded by neat little orchards and gardens; and in the place of poverty and misery, the villages and their inhabitants assumed an air of rural happiness.

Their potatoe crops had been so much neglected, that they were diminished to one fourth of their former quantity. He taught them the method of improving the soil, obtained the best seed for planting, and in a short time the district became famous for its excellent potatoes. After teaching them various arts connected with agriculture, of which they had no knowledge or idea before, he instituted an agricultural Society, in 1778, which, beside furnishing books and instruction on the subject, established prizes for the farmers who should raise the best cattle, grain, and fruit. This excited them to more industry and attention, and contributed still further to the improvement of the country.

But though he performed and encouraged all these works as subsidiary to his main design, he did not suffer them to divert him from it. He did not forget that his chief duty was to promote the spiritual benefit of his people. He was particularly