

FARM OF JAMES GOWAN.

In the *Farmer's Cabinet* for June, is a copy of the report given by Mr. Gowen of his farm, to the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture. We should be pleased to copy the whole of the report, but want of room allows us to make only the following summary and extracts.

The farm is located near Philadelphia, and now contains about 100 acres, exclusive of woodland. Mr. G. took possession of it in 1834, at which time it is represented to have been in a very worn down and poor condition, from the neglect and bad management of previous owners. Mr. Gowen took away the old fences, made a new division of the farm, and fenced with stone-wall and hedges of the osage orange, drained and filled up ravines and gullies.

The land is now brought into a high state of cultivation, producing 100 bushels of corn, 400 bushels potatoes, 30 bushels wheat, &c., to the acre. He at first bought manure from the city, but after three or four years' experience, he gave up the plan, and has since made enough on his own premises, excepting light dressing. To do this he has been obliged to increase his stock of animals. "To maintain his stock," he says, "and bring my land to a high state of cultivation, by the most efficient and economical practice, has been a leading object; and to accomplish this, required no ordinary management on such a farm. The stock in cattle has ranged for years, from forty to fifty head, in addition to the necessary horses, with a large stock of swine for breeding and fattening; and these I have fed from the produce of the farm, except the purchasing occasionally of some straw, and supplies of mill feed for the horses and swine, and some meadow hay for the cattle, selling frequently its equivalent in timothy. During the same period I have sold hundreds of bushels of rye, some wheat, and on an average, four hundred bushels of potatoes annually, with some three or four hundred bushels of carrots, besides providing for the family. But the chief income was derived from the cattle.

My expenditures during the whole period, could not be otherwise than large; as I could not put up so much stone fence, and picket fence, as encloses my farm without incurring a heavy outlay; but I view these improvements as cheap in the end. It may be safely inferred, that there is not at this day, any farm of the same extent in this part of the country, that can so easily be worked, or will require so little expense for a series of years in keeping the fences in order, especially when the hedges are taken into account. I am also of opinion, that taking in view the condition of the soil, as to depth and richness, as well as its being entirely free of stones and other impediments, that I can make it produce as much as any farm of its size in any part of the country, for a series of years, and at as small an expense.

The secret of keeping so large a stock on so little land, consists in my practice of partial soil-
ing, and green crops, whereby I make some four

or five acres do the work of thirty acres, in the "slow and easy go way." From May to August, my cattle are confined to one or two fields, most commonly one, to which they are driven, more for exercise in the cooler parts of the day, than for pasture; they being fed in the stables early in the morning, at noon, and at night, with food cut for them from a lot adjoining the barn-yard. The food is generally of lucerne, orchard grass and clover, oats and corn. The patches from which the corn and oats are cut, are always sowed with turnips in August. No one can credit, unless he has had proper experience in the matter, the quantity of food that one acre of lucerne, one of rich orchard grass and clover, and one of oats and corn, afford from May till August, nor can he estimate the great saving in manure, much less the comparatively good health of the cattle, from not being exposed on the naked fields, under a fervid sun, toiling all day in search of food. This practice allows me to crop almost the whole of the land, and to make some 120 to 150 tons of hay annually. In the fall, from August till November, the cattle have the whole range of the mowed lands, as I do not cut second crop grass for hay. Then for winter feed, I have always an acre of sugar beet, half an acre of sugar parsnips; half an acre or more of carrots, for my horses; and generally from three to four acres of turnips. I report to the committee on crops this season, over 100 tons of these roots. In 1843, I gathered from one acre, 1078 bushels sugar beets, 60 lbs. to the bushel; carrots at the rate of 687 bushels; sugar parsnips, 868 bushels. This year 972 bushels sugar beets; 970 bushels carrots; 700 bushels sugar parsnip; and from three and a half acres, 2500 bushels of turnips, sowed with timothy seed.

The farm buildings consist of three substantial stone barns, one 70 feet by 33, another 50 by 26, and another hipped roof with cupola, 57 by 25, besides a large over-shoot stable and hay house, stable high of stone, 60 feet by 30—the lower floors of all these are made of broken stone and lime, planked, being vermin proof. There are also, a corn crib capable of holding 1200 bushels of corn, one barrack, ample hog-pens, and sheds for carts and wagons. The barn buildings have been filled this fall to their utmost limit, except the corn crib.

A substantial stone wall encloses the principal manure heap; the drainings from this heap are led into a place of deposit, in which are received also a drain that runs under ground from the kitchen, as well as drainings from the pig-pens, and the washings from all the yards. These drainings form an important item in the supply of manure to my land; it is a saving which I cannot estimate at less than \$200 a year. This liquid by a simple process is applied to the patches of roots, &c., and to this may be ascribed my great success in raising such crops.

Of Improved Cattle, my first effort was with the celebrated "Dairy Maid," still owned by me. Her first calf, Leander, by Whitaker's Prince of