

AGRICULTURAL REVIEW.

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NOTHING is more common than to speak of men in trade realizing much larger sums than are earned by farmers; and no mistake is greater than to suppose that the balance of profit rests with the merchant

Ask the owner of warehouses, and you will find that seven out of ten, if not a larger proportion, of those who begin the business of merchants, fail within the first ten years; the few that succeed are not sufficiently wealthy to enable all their

gains to pay the short-comings of those who have failed. Not so with the farmer; if he adhere to his own business bankruptcy is impossible. It should be remembered, however, that, as a general rule, capital is as necessary to secure the best results in agricultural, as in mercantile pursuits. The farmer should have on hand, on the first day of November, sufficient funds to enable him to purchase the necessary amount of fertilizing materials for spring use; and this should be, not what will simply secure a crop, but the largest amount which can be used with increased profit. He should also be amply able to meet all expenses of hired labor, farm implements, &c., for the current season. Under these circumstances, only gross ignorance, combined with negligence, can prevent his ultimate success, while intelligent farmers have made fortunes in almost every state, county, and township.

We have published within the last five years, several instances of farmers becoming wealthy in the regular pursuit of agriculture, and in this country they are assisted in so doing, by the upward tendency of real estate in value, particularly when improved.

It should be remembered that the entire success of the merchant—we mean his actual success—is dependent upon the commissions, in the form of profit, paid by the farmer on his

supplies, and the direct commissions for selling the products of the farmer. It should be remembered, also, that three-quarters of the taxes paid, are received from farmers and planters; that the same proportion of the real wealth of the country is possessed by the farmers. We will admit that there are more of them, but we claim that while a few merchants, and bankers, and speculators, may acquire fortunes greater than the average of those acquired by farmers, still farmers average greater profits than merchants, from the fact that they always succeed, provided they live within their means, and do not attempt more than they are able to accomplish.

A writer in the *Boston Cultivator*, furnishes some interesting instances, showing that fortunes can be made by farming. "Sixty years ago," he says, "a man came to Western New York, from New England or New Jersey, I am not certain which, his axe and a little loose change, constituting nearly all his property. He worked several years for different farmers, and then bought land for himself. He now has a farm of 600 acres or more, has given two sons each a good farm, and pays taxes on two hundred thousand dollars of personal property. He has never had any business but farming.

"I know another man whose father left him a farm of more than two hundred acres, over 30 years ago, with some encumbrances on it in the shape of legacies to other heirs, who now has over 400 acres of land, and fifty thousand dollars at interest. He, also, has done no business but farming.

"Several men have worked for me, who, though they had nothing when they came, are now well off. A young Scotchman worked for me thirty years ago, who had but three cents when he began; he now has a good farm of 200 acres, well stocked, and is free from debt. He knew how to do the mechanical part of farming, thoroughly, but knew nothing of speculation. I could name others who have acquired fortunes wholly by farming.

"A farmer of small means should be very economical and still very liberal. He should be economical in dress for himself and his fa-