

the farm, and give the following description of what they saw, in a different order from the course over which they passed; so that other persons visiting the farm, may more easily find, and identify, the respective fields visited.

On entering Spring-park farm, the deputation first saw a rye gratten, of about eighteen acres, which appeared, from the stubble, to have borne a good crop, and which was now having manure ploughed in for turnips. The manure had been carted out between the shocks of rye. These had been carried on the previous day, and it was calculated that the turnip seed would again be in the land within three weeks of beginning to cut the rye. The soil was an exceedingly poor, pebbly, bench gravel, and such as without subsoil ploughing and careful cultivation could never have been expected to grow either wheat or turnips. The whole of this piece of rye, according to Mr. Davis's system, ought to have been sown off in the spring, and succeeded by mangold-wurzel, and a part of it had been so treated. The green crops had grown so rapidly however, through the mild winter and the early spring, and the demand for sheep had been so great, that Mr. Davis had allowed the rye to run to seed, giving the land an extra coat of manure to compensate for its different treatment from the other. The mangold-wurzel plant, where the rye had been sown (excepting in a small hollow which had formerly been an osier bed) was, considering the soil, exceedingly good.

A field of similarly gravelly soil of about twenty acres, next presented itself, which had borne an excellent crop of peas.—These had been carried, and were afterwards seen in good condition, in the stacks and barns at the homestead; these peas were so well podded as to have been considered a good crop on average land and in ordinary seasons—but in the present season, peas have failed almost universally, and the appearance of so fine a crop here excited much attention. Mr. Davis attributed his success principally to his having put in his seed before Christmas, and thus enabled the plants to get well into bloom before the drought came. Mr. Davis considers that early sowing is also a complete protection against the dolphin, which he says never attacks his crops.

On the left of the carriage-road, was a field of twelve acres, now bearing a crop of buckwheat, which had been sown at the end of May; after cow-grass, mown twice last year, and sown off this spring. This piece, according to Mr. Davis's regular system, should have been put in with beans last September.

The adjoining field is a tenacious clay (but nothing like the Weald of Kent clay in stiffness), in wheat, which, though it must have promised a much heavier crop previously to the storm that had beaten it down, was still a good crop. The effect of draining was here singularly perceptible. Mr. Davis had drained four

feet deep, and at a considerable distance apart. That portion of the wheat over the drains, and for some distance on each side of the drains, was at least six inches higher than in the land midway between the drains, and the ears were proportionably better. Mr. Davis had put the drains at so great a distance apart, by way of experiment, and now intends to put another drain between each of those already laid down.

The adjoining field bore a crop of beans, just cut, with young turnips between the rows. This crop of beans is also a remarkable exception to the almost general failure of the crop, the haulm being abundantly podded, and the crop a large one. The turnips here did not appear to have taken so well as in some other fields.—Adjoining to this is a field of clover, now luxuriant with a second growth, which looked remarkably well.

On the upper side of the road is a field of about fourteen acres of a rather tenacious clay, which had been in tares, the remaining portion of which was now being consumed. A part of this field had been sown with turnips on the ridge, which showed a promising plant. The remainder of the field, however, had broken up too dry to allow the rest of the turnips being sown, and was waiting for rain.

Next adjoining to this field were about fourteen acres of oats, which promised to be a very superior crop.

The next field comprises about seventeen acres, was in white wheat, apparently the "Chidham white," which was estimated at a very high produce, and is of the finest quality. This piece was a very striking instance of the success of thin sowing. Below this is a field of eight acres, bearing a very luxuriant crop of clover; and adjoining to this, about seven acres of beans, an excellent crop for the season; the turnips between which were a remarkably good plant.

Next to the beans is a gravelly field of very bad quality, consisting of about 12 acres, in oats; and although the dry season had been very much against them, still the crop promised to yield a very fair average.

On the opposite side of the road, is another hungry gravelly field of twenty-four acres, which had borne a good crop of peas, and which were afterwards inspected in the stack-yard. The advantage of Mr. Davis's system of early and thin sowing and deep ploughing, was fully manifest in the yield, the peas being well podded.

Above this is a field of thirteen acres, of a second growth of red clover on a hungry, sandy soil, showing an excellent plant, which appears to be the case with all Mr. Davis's clover, of the present year, probably in consequence of his deep culture.

Adjoining the clover is a field bounded by the woods, of about fourteen acres of similar soil, in barley, which promises an average crop, although partially suffering from the drought, and from rabbits.

Adjoining to this, is about fifteen acres of a soil almost wholly composed of white sand, and which, probably never would have been sown with wheat at all by any body but Mr. Davis. A sand-pit was open a few feet from the wheat plants, which offered a good opportunity of inspecting the soil, which consists of alternate layers of white and red sand, and gravel, to the bottom of the pit. So springy was the sand at about five feet from the surface, although near the top of the hill, that the sand-diggers had dug the sand in squares, about four feet deeper, and had scarcely finished each square before the excavation had become spit deep in water. This 15 acre piece had been once ploughed after peas, and drilled with wheat a foot apart. Mr. Davis had of course calculated on a small yield, but the crop was much more than might have been expected on such a wretched soil.

A singular instance of the tendency of wheat to tiller out, till it has furnished as many ears as the soil can bear, was witnessed on walking through this poor piece of wheat, into the adjoining field of wheat below, where the soil became gradually better. Although both the straw and the ears were few and far between on the upper piece, on entering the lower piece the roots had tillered out, and had become so studded with fine ears, as to strike every person present. The getting of even a slight crop off such a piece of poor land, is evidently more difficult than getting double the quantity from ordinary land.

The stack-yard contained already two stacks of clover, three stacks of peas, a double-bayed barn, and two bays of the other barns filled with peas, and the remainder holding the rye. Mr. Davis uses the Kentish plough, which, he says, is the best implement he ever used for deep ploughing.

The deputation visited, and have now described, every field on the farm, in order that it might not be said that they had not seen the whole, and that their report was consequently inaccurate.—They have also preferred making their most detailed report on the worst farm under Mr. Davis's system, as affording the severest test of its merits; and feel bound in fairness to bear testimony to that gentleman's great success in its application.

The most conspicuous points of success in Mr. Davis's system appear to be—

1st. The raising of superior crops from inferior land. Indeed, many of the deputation who had not visited the farm before, were much surprised at the contrast between the land and the crops. The farm had evidently been intended, at some time or other, to be converted into ornamental property, clumps and belts of trees having been planted in different places; but although some of the firs and other trees had probably been thirty years in the ground, they were scarcely long enough for hop-poles, hav-