

could securely undertake farming, having a less sum than five pounds for every acre.

By the term capital is meant the savings of labor, whether it be in the form of money, farming implements, or any other articles or objects which constitute stock; and unless the farmer possess a liberal share of this preliminary requisite, he cannot possibly till the soil on the best principles, or place himself above the necessity of selling his produce very often at a great disadvantage. We all know that the prices of grain fluctuate, and the farmer should if possible possess an amount of moneyed capital which will enable him to prepare his produce with the proper degree of deliberation, and to keep it stored in his farm-yard till it suits his convenience and interest to carry it to market.

Whatever be the capital employed, the farmer is to expect from it a fair return, provided he expend it with prudence, and adopt the best mode of culture. It is possible that these *best* methods of operation may not in every instance be the most agreeable or the most popular; but in this as in all other cases, the farmer must adopt that which is strictly the most economical. In one respect he is the administrator of a fund for the public interest, and therefore the more produce he can raise at the smallest cost to himself the more will he be rendering a service to the whole community. It has been plausibly represented sometimes that all the operations on a farm should be performed by human labor; as, for instance, delving with the spade instead of plowing, threshing with the flail instead of employing inanimate mechanism, with the ostensible object of supporting a numerous class of small farmers and peasantry in a state of greater comfort than they could otherwise enjoy. I will here take leave to say, and wish to impress it as a most important truth in economical science, that the plan which promises to produce the greatest quantity of produce at the lowest cost to the community, is invariably the best; and that this plan can be followed only by employing horse-power, as well as inanimate mechanism, instead of the feeble and expensive labor of the human hands. The substitution of human for brute force cannot be tolerated in an advanced state of society, and the argument for its use is altogether fallacious. The whole population of a country are as much interested in the soil as the mere laborers upon it, and hence the necessity for producing the greatest

quantity of food at the cheapest cost to the community at large.

With these preliminary observations on what ought to be the general line of policy of the farmer, I will proceed to a few practical advices on the selection of farms.

Attention should, in the first place, be paid to the nature of the climate, and in doing so, the observations given heretofore on this branch of the subject may be kept in view.

The principal object of examination after this, ought to be the quality of the soil. By ascertaining the character of the soil, and, if necessary, remedying its defects, the profits of a farmer may be greatly increased. He must regulate his measures in proportion to the amount of capital he possesses, the rent he has to pay, and the improvements he intends to make. Such is the importance of the soil, and the necessity of adapting his system to its peculiar qualities, that no general rules can be laid down for cultivation, unless the exact nature and situation of the soil and subsoil be known. From want of attention to the nature of soils, labor and capital have been spent in vain attempts to introduce plants not at all suitable to them; and manure has been as improperly applied. This ignorance has also prevented many from improving their land, though the expense was trifling and the means within their reach.

In making a choice of land for farming, let it be a rule to prefer a gently sloping, or level surface, to a hilly and irregular one; the labor of working land of irregular surface is very great, independent of other disadvantages; and if it is taken it should be at a proportionably low rental. If possible, select land that lies with an easy slope to the south; though if well sheltered, the inclination in other directions is of little consequence. If the land require drainage, or be exposed to heavy rains, observe if there be sufficient inclination to carry off the water. If there be no lower point to which the water may conveniently run, then avoid the risk of taking such land, for this defect in its character would prove a frequent source of trouble and loss; but in the case of dry calcareous soils, and in moderately rainy districts, the inclination of the surface and means of drainage are immaterial.

The selection of a farm will call forth all the ability and experience of the farmer. He must attend to all the advantages and disadvantages regarding the farm, so that