

some farms, might prove worse than useless to others. The farmer, before adopting it extensively, had better try it on a small scale—construct it with care and judgment, so that the trial may be a *fair one*. The slope of the ditches should depend in a great measure on the stiffness of the soil of which it is composed, and of course their depth and the height of the ridge will be greater or less as they are more or less slanting.

Near the village of Oshawa may be seen some of the fences alluded to, which have given such general satisfaction that they are becoming more generally adopted in that section of country: the soil is clay with a slight mixture of gravel. Very light or sandy soils would be ill adapted to such a purpose.

Yours, &c.

PRACTICE.

Whitby, March, 1849.

EXTRACT FROM L. F. ALLEN'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS BEFORE NEW YORK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, JAN. 10th, 1849.—Among the benefits arising from well directed Agricultural education, aside from spreading the requisite learning and intelligence applicable to the chief pursuit of our people, deep and broad among them, the retention of that portion of active capital, acquired by the industry of our Agricultural population, among themselves, would be one important consequence. In place of the prevailing and mistaken notion that monied capital invested in agriculture is either unproductive, or less so than in other pursuits, our farmers would be taught that, coupled with the knowledge to direct it, no branch of our national industry is so steadily remunerating as that connected with the soil—a fact now practically disbelieved; or why would such amounts of monied capital be continually drawn from the agricultural districts to your commercial cities, to be embarked in hazardous enterprises, or doubtful investments? The merchant, or the speculator may fail—and fail he does, very often—and in his downfall is often buried the toils of a long life of patient industry. But who ever knew a good farmer, of prudent habits to fail? Nay, who did not, with an exemption from extraordinary ills in life, ultimately grow rich, and discharge meantime, all the duties of a good citizen? I concede to you the many prominent cases which exist, of wealth rapidly accumulated by bold and successful speculation; of fortunate, perhaps accidental adventure; of hoards heaped up by a long course of perseverance in trade, directed by that intuitive sagacity of which but few among us all are endowed, and which so dazzlingly invite our imitation. Yet these are but a few glaring instances, standing out in bold relief among the many who have sunk in the same career, perhaps with a ruined peace; happy afterwards to retire, were it in their power, upon the limited possession which they had thrown away, to commence their wasting strife upon the broad sea of adventure.

A second advantage would be, that it would invite, annually, a large class of educated men of capital from our cities, to invest a portion of their wealth in our farms, convinced by the knowledge acquired in a course of agricultural education, that Husbandry was a good business, and intending to pursue it as the occupation of their lives, it would cause a reflux of that capital and population which had been drawn away from agriculture. Nor would such associations among us detract from the industrious habits of our farmers by their example. They, by the possession of larger estates than we enjoy, might give more of their time to leisure than we are accustomed to spend; but they

must, if good farmers, attend to the daily routine of their affairs, as well as we. They would diffuse intelligence among us; introduce improved implements, seeds, and stock; and in time, surely exalt the character of our husbandry. They might not, indeed, work at the muck heap, nor guide the plow with their own hands; but they must be capable, from education, to direct the labor of both; for we must not forget that the merchant who, from his luxurious counting room, plans his voyages, and directs the course of his ships; or the engineer who projects the rail-way, or the ocean steamer, once performed the duties of a shop boy, or hammered at the anvil. And thus with the farmer: he should be capable of directing the cultivation of the soil to its greatest possible extent of production; and he will find that, in achieving such result, all the powers of his mind, and the knowledge with which it is stored, will be required.

This thought will bear a little examination. The farmer is apt to think that the professional man, or the merchant, lives an easy and luxurious life. In many instances their families may do so; but with the eminent and successful man of law, or science—the artisan, or merchant himself, such supposition is a great mistake. There are not, under heaven, a more laborious class of men than these. Labor of body, and of mind is theirs—and that incessant. See them early, late; in season, and out of season—their whole energies devoted to their several callings, without rest, or intermission—and far too frequently, to the premature wasting of life itself. It is no wonder that such industry, directed by good education, (and by this term I mean the entire training of the boy to manhood in its most extended sense,) and stimulated by laudable ambition, should lead to success. Yet with all these appliances, the labors of such men are often disastrous; and if not so, after a life of anxiety, their toils too frequently end with but the means of a slender support.—Compared with these, the toils of the farmer are light. Physical labor he endures, it is true, and often times severe labor, but his mind is easy. He enjoys sound rest, and high health. He has much leisure; in many cases more than is for his good. He has abundant time to discuss politics, law, religion—everything, in fact, but what relates to his own profession, on which subject, I lament to say, his mind seems less exercised than on almost any other. Now, let the same early education be given to the young farmer of an equally acute intellect that is given to him who chooses professional, mechanical, or mercantile pursuits—education each in his own line. Let them start fair. Apply the same thought, investigation, energy, and toil, each in his particular sphere, and beyond all question agriculture will, in the aggregate, have the advantage—and for this reason, if no other: there are few contingencies connected with agriculture. Its basis is the solid earth, stamped with the Divine promise, that while it remains, seed-time and harvest shall continue; while commerce, and trade; mechanics, and arts are liable to extraordinary and continual accident. Look at the devastations by flood, and fire—of ship, and cargo, upon ocean, lake, and sea, and river; conflagrations in your towns and cities; and the thousand other casualties which almost daily occur—all which are a dead sink upon labor and capital not agricultural, and the risks of the husbandman are scarce one to ten, in the comparison. Rely upon it, Farmers, you are on the safe side.

But, I hear some one remark, "Why, if agriculture, through the improved education proposed, holds out such alluring advantages, all our young men will rush into it, and competition will destroy it." Not the slightest danger. Our young men are already running into the other trades and professions, where competition is ruinous; and all we ask, is the opportunity to