

FARMER'S COLUMN.

The Best Size For Farms. There is a general tendency to enlarge farms. As the country grows older and men are better able to buy land, they buy out their less prosperous or less contented neighbors.

A large farm is a relative term, and in all places don't mean the same amount of land. For instance in some parts of this State one hundred acres is a common size for farms and those having several hundred acres are said to have large farms; but West and South the latter may be called rather small, and large farms be understood to include several thousand acres.

Farms of this size admit of the use of the most approved farm tools and machines. The best plows, harrows, cultivators and drills, for putting in the crops, can be used, and the best mowers, reapers, horse-rakes, horse-forks and other common machinery for gathering and securing crops, will also pay.

In the use of a threshing machine is usually employed. It appears to make the most advantageous arrangement for average farming. If the means are good, it will furnish the means to educate children and eventually give them some help in getting a farm. It also keeps neighbors near together, leads to making good roads and bridges as well as securing good and convenient schools and churches, while there is a general opinion that as a whole makes the happiest communities.

There are many advantages in very large farms. A more perfect adaptation and division of labor can be secured. The men most efficient at the different kinds of labor, may be divided so as to keep all kinds of work moving along to the best advantage. A larger amount and a greater variety of stock that is more especially adapted to and calculated for the varying conditions and circumstances of the farm, may be kept. A larger and more complete assortment of tools and machines, not only for putting in, harvesting and taking care of crops, but for threshing and preparing them for feed and for market, may be used; and the whole, in many cases, may be directed and managed by a more competent person than is often the case in ordinary farming; but with all this there are many disadvantages.

The work is spread over a great deal larger surface, and more time must be taken in going to and returning from it. This in drawing manure, and crops from distant fields, is no small item in the course of the year, and it is very difficult to get a sufficient amount of good reliable help; while some may be doing well under the eye of the owner or foreman, others that are out of sight, may not work to good advantage. The general tendency of men that are constantly at work for others, is to be expensive, to get as much money as is possible, while those that work for themselves study to make their labor most effective. A very common rule is that those that work for themselves will get the most work done in the least time.

It is true, very large farms and plantations may grow more wheat and corn, and more cotton and tobacco for market and to export; but at the same time they produce less amount and variety of crops needed for the comfort and convenience of those doing the work. It is also true that with large farms and plenty of help to work them, the farmer may appear to make them to better advantage and altogether make a much greater show; yet as this must be done by the help of a good many hard working men, who will only get a moderate living in the time, I must be permitted to prefer the kind of farming that allows such men to have farms and work for themselves.

Large, handsome farms and very large amounts of important products like wheat and cotton, for export, may be of great national importance, but of more importance than all the rest is the men and their families; who perform the labor in growing these products. Their labor and property is, after all, the first consideration and the system of farming that secures the greatest good to the greatest number must, after all, be the one we prefer.

This we believe will generally be seen where the largest proportion have land of their own and work for themselves.

THE YOUNG FOLKS.

The Man in the Bag. There were two brothers, who were both soldiers, the one had grown rich, but the other had no luck, and was very poor. The poor man thought he would try to better himself, so pulling off his red coat, he became a gardener, and dug his ground well, and sowed turnips.

When the crop came up, there was one plant bigger than all the rest; and it kept getting larger and larger, and seemed as if it would never cease growing; so that it might have been called the prince of turnips, for there never was such a one seen before and never will again. At last it was so big that it filled a cart, and two oxen could hardly draw it; but the gardener did not know what in the world to do with it, nor whether it would be a blessing or a curse to him. One day he said to himself, "What shall I do with it? If I sell it, it will bring me no more than an ordinary weight; and as for eating, the little turnip I am sure are better than this great one; the best thing perhaps that I can do will be to give it to the king, as a mark of my respect."

Then he yoked his oxen, and drew the turnip to the court, and gave it to the king. "What a wonderful thing!" said the king. "I have seen many strange things in my life, but such a monster as this I never saw before. Where did you get the seed, or is it only your good luck? If so, you are a true child of fortune."

"Ah, no!" answered the gardener, "I am no child of fortune; I am a poor soldier, who never yet could get good to live upon; so I set to work tilling the ground. I have a brother who is rich, and all the world knows him; but as I am poor, I must do for myself. One day the king took you to him, and said, 'You shall be poor no longer. I will give you so much, that you shall be even richer than your brother.' So he gave him money, and lands, and flocks, and herds; and made him so rich, that his brother's wealth could not at all be compared with his.

When the brother heard of all this, and how a turnip had made the gardener so rich, he envied him sorely; and he thought himself how he could please the king and get the same good luck for himself. However, he thought he would manage more cleverly than his brother; so he got together a rich gift of jewels and the horses for the king, thinking that he must have a much larger gift in return; for his brother had so much given him for a turnip, what must his gift be worth?

The king took the gift very graciously, and said he knew not what he could give in return more costly and wonderful than the great turnip; so the soldier was forced to put it into a cart, and drag it home with him. When he reached home, he knew not upon whom to vent his rage and envy; and all the wicked thoughts came into his head, and he sought to kill his brother. So he hired some villains to murder him; and having shown them where to lie in ambush, he went to his brother, and said, "Dear brother, I have found a hidden treasure; let us go and dig it up, and share it between us." The other had no thought or fear of his brother's rogery; so they went out together; and as they were travelling along, the murderers rushed out upon him, bound him, and were going to hang him on a tree.

But whilst they were getting all ready, they heard the trampling of a horse afar off, which so frightened them that they pushed their prisoner neck and shoulders together into a sack, and swung him up by a cord to the tree; and there they left him dangling, and ran away, meaning to come back and despatch him in the evening.

Meantime, however, he worked away, till he had made a hole large enough to put his head in. When the horseman came up, he proved to be a student, a merry fellow, who was journeying along on his nag, and singing as he went. As soon as the man in the bag saw him passing under the tree, he cried out, "Good morning! good morning! to thee, my friend!" The student looked about, and seeing no one, and not knowing where the voice came from, cried out, "Who calls me?" Then the man in the bag cried out, "Lift up thine eyes, for behold here I lie in the sack of wisdom! Here have I, in a short time, learned great and wondrous things. Compared to what is taught in this seat, all the learning of the schools is as empty air. A little longer and I shall know all that man can know, and shall come forth wiser than the wisest of mankind. Here I discern the signs and motions of the heavens and the stars; the laws that control the winds; the number of the sands on the sea-shore; the healing of the sick; the virtues of all simples, of herbs, and of precious stones. Wert thou but once here, my friend, thou wouldst soon feel the power of knowledge."

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Foundries. SHARPLESS & HARMAN, STOVES & PLUMBERS. THE CELEBRATED MOTTORNE IRON BEAM AND THE MOTTORNE WOODEN BEAM STEVES.

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The Phenix Fetteral will cure the disease of the Throat and Lungs, such as Croup, Cough, Whooping Cough, Catarrh, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Bronchitis, and all other pulmonary affections.

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