FARMERS' DEPARTMENT.

ANOTHER SHINGLE WHITTLING.

Good morning, Uncle John. Take a seat here on this store-box, and take a part of my shingle, and let us have a little chat.

Uncle John.—Well, Joseph, I don't care to take part of thy seat, but thee may have all thy shingle, if thee'll allow me to make up in talk what I lack in whittling.

Joseph.—Certainly, uncle, for I have often wondered how it was, or in what consisted the great secret of your success, for I have noticed that everything you undertook prospered

Uncle John.—I came to town this morning to meet a man to do up some business and it is half an hour till the time set, so I will begin by say ng that my success as a farmer, is attributed to a certain course of business, which I find much easier to practice upon, than to communicate to others About the first thing I learn d when I began in the world, was to "time it." To always go a little ahead of time with everything. When I go to town, or mill, or meeting, or elsewhere, I find it no farther—no harder to get there, as the morning, "a little too soon," than to always be dragging up the rear. And when I undertake to plant or sow a certain number of acres, or do any other job work, that it takes no more furrows, nor no more l d or to do it in the *right* time, than it does to be a little too late." And farther, that it takes no more money to pay a debt exactly when it is due or a little before, and no more trouble, than to "wait a bide." I have known men that never thought of going to mill till the flour barrell was *clean out*. And when they did go, instead of being up betimes, and off, they would dally till somebody else would be before them, so that they must wait, or go another day; and when, by accident, they plant fruit trees, it will be put off till so late as to be in danger of dying Their wheat crop is not put in till so late as to fall short nearly the rent. Their fences are not repaired till the crop is damaged by unruly stock, and debts are seldom paid till there is a "figuring of interest," and sometimes *of en to* The truth is, they are behind in everything—or rather "*too late*"—too late to bed—too late to rise—too late to sow—reap and plant—and too late generally in discovering that they will certainly come out at the little end of the horn

Joseph.—But uncle, have you not known men that seemed to be punctual in meeting their debts, and appeared to time it, as you call it, and yet they didn't prosper as you do?

Uncle John.—To be sure I have, and think I can account for it quite easily In my outset in the world I determined to be a free man—to be *ind dependent*. Thus I came at in two ways: I rather made my means come to my wishes, or else for ed my wishes to accommodate themselves to my means. And thus I believe I was as perfectly independent and easy when I used to work out at fifty cents a day, as I am now. My income then was truly small, but my out-goes were *smaller*. I always did think the farmer the last man to be a *dependant*. But I know some that are always an "a" stew." They keep their habitties ahead of their means. I don't say they are dishonest or lazy, but they are what some call "hard up." If they buy a piece of land, or a farm, they do it before they are quite able. And generally, before one long pull is ended, they are hitched in to some other larger undertaking. They set their stakes and form their plans to liberate themselves from thraldome of their own creating. I know some that are worth thousands, and are as dependent as slaves. They place themselves in a harness, and are driven by necessity—dependent on market—capital and men of all grades, even to the day laborer.

Joseph.—I would like to know, uncle, how you bought that fine farm of yours and paid for it with out going in debt ' for you seem to condemn the credit system I thought you began life poor

Uncle John.—So I did I earned the first dollar at rail-making, and was a renter for several years. Meanwhile I lived rude, and had all I needed, and was a happy man It was not so many years before I had several hundred dollars on interest—had become acquainted with business—and more than all, I had established a character; so that I could have bought property to ten times my real worth. I don't condemn the credit system at all —I only condemn the *abuse* of it I know farmers who will buy almost anyth ng if they can only get a *credit*. I could have contracted for a large farm quite easily, but I chose a small one, that would allow me time and means to improve and enjoy life. My first purchase was a hundred acres, and paid for in annual payments. I need not tell thee money-making is an easy thing.

Joseph.—Now you are coming at it, uncle: I want to hear about making money easy; for this is just the thing I have not been able to do.

Uncle John.—I shall not detail my history from the time I bought my first one hundred acres of land until now, but would just remark, that I have made money every year since I began business. And in looking over my books the other day I noticed but little difference in the years—not much difference whether there was a full crop, or a half crop—not much difference whether there was a high market or a low one. My land is not particularly adapted to any kind of grain, but will produce corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes and grass, which enables me to keep up such a rotation, as will distribute my work through the whole year, and thereby avoid those periodical bustles so common in this section of country in gathering large harvests. My business is to *raise* grain and stock, and not to buy of either except in rare cases.—When I have a surplus of either, I can always get a fair price for it—never sell because I am forced —and always sell when an article is *scarce* — I make no calculation on selling at the highest notch, or on buying bargains. With so many strings to my bow, I have never realized anything like a failure yet.

Joseph.—I see nothing very new in all you have said, Uncle John. Nor do I see how such a course could bring you in money very fast or easy—but should think you could do better to go into stock raising altogether.

Uncle John.—I am satisfied there is a possibility of my changing my business for the *better*—but were I to make any change in my mode of farming, there is a great probability that it would be for the *worse*. I would rather not be a farmer at all than always be in a fever for something new—this year it's hogs, hogs, next year wheat, or sheep, or something else. How I have pitied poor William ——. A few years ago he put all his stock into sheep. He tinkered with them awhile, and finally sold out at a sacrifice, and set to raising grain. Horses, ploughs and gears were purchased, and all at high figures. Hands were hired, and the fine grass fields turned up for corn—and some of his land not at all suited for that crop. While the crop was growing, W. thought as there was a great outcry for stock hogs, and prices high, that there certainly would be a fair profit in feeding all his corn to hogs. Happen in when thee would, it was hogs; hogs at breakfast, dinner, supper, and all the time. Those hogs were fattened, and the price of pork coming down a little, W. set out and bought up what made a large drove, and put out for the East. The next thing we heard of W. was that he had just saved himself, though he lost his corn. I suspect it is true, for when he came home he sold off everything that rooted—even the old pet sow, and I've not heard him say "hog" since. Wheat next came up, and the whole farm must be sown in wheat. This was done at much expense in purchasing seed, and the loss of several horses by the careless treatment of hands. The great rust blight put an end to that speculation, and poor W. found himself, after several years of hard toil, several thousand dollar worse off than if he had been asleep.

Joseph.—That was a rare case, and perhaps not so much attributable to *mismanagement*, as a succession of misfortunes.

Uncle John.—True, and the best way to avoid such misfortunes is to "time it" so as to keep on "hand" Moreover, by well enough alone And I have thought when a man was satisfied that the occupation he followed was profitable, that it was better that no experiment was necessary to his health, and at the same time gave a moderate surplus over expenditures such as were needful, that that was *well enough*. I have much more to say, but as the hour has come to attend to other matters, I'll

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