

paid labour profitably, and another says he cannot, the natural conclusion is, that on the part of the latter there is some want of skill, industry, or method, possessed and exercised in a superior degree by the former; and the fair conclusion would be, that all might equally employ paid labour with profit, if all could or would, with equal energy and knowledge, direct its use.

But the writers of the above opinions, for the most part, assign their reasons for the conclusion they have come to. To afford an opportunity of contrasting these reasons, I have arranged them opposite to each other in two following columns:—

Why, or circumstances in which paid labour can be employed profitably on the farm.	Why paid labour cannot profitably be employed on the farm.
By a man who understands his business.	Failure of the potatoe crop.
Because I possess the advantages of making artificial manure (of mussel mud.)	Produce too low in price.
After a farm has been brought into good heart, and when it is cultivated with a view to permanent settlement.	Produce too low in price.
If paid in produce.	Failure of the crops in past years.
In clearing and improving.	In improving, but not in raising produce.
In improving and raising produce.	No sure cash markets, and length of winters.
No reason.	Low price of produce, and competition of the United States.
With judicious management and economy.	The very long winters.
In the summer season.	If paid in autumn, produce too low to allow it to be done with profit.
If a man has capital to start with.	Not sufficient demand to form a market.
No reason.	Produce too low to pay the wages.
No reason.	Because compost manures are not used—the difficulty of procuring stable manure; and want of a ready market.
In improving, not in raising produce.	Returns will not meet the outlay.
In improving, clearing, and raising produce, if the farmer has capital.	Produce of the land utterly disproportionate.
In improving and raising produce, if he have a small capital.	The markets are too poor.
No reason.	Want of a cash market, proximity to the United States, and expense of bringing land into cultivation.
When near a good market.	Low price of produce.
At £20 to £30 a year.	Failure of the wheat and potatoe crops, and the depressed state of the markets.
It can, though few have tried the experiment.	Uncertainty of the markets and low price of produce.
Want of money prevents many from employing help which would amply repay them.	Not if paid in money, because prices are low and crops light.
In improving the farm.	No certain markets, and prices at best, not remunerative.
By those who have means to spare for improvement.	Capital so employed, will not yield a fair return.
By employers of judgement and system.	Will not pay.
No reason.	No reason.
In improving and raising produce.	
Servants in this country better adapted for winter work than for cultivating the soil.	
If paid in produce.	

The sum of the reasons of those who affirm is, that with a little money to start with, and ready money to pay the wages when due, without selling his produce when markets are low, with a knowledge of his business, and opportunity of getting or making manure, and of bringing his farm into good heart, with judicious management, economy and system, wages from £20 to £30 a year may be paid by the New Brunswick farmer.

Of those who deny, the reasons are in substance, the low prices, the want especially of cash markets, the competition of the United States, the low price of produce in autumn when wages are paid, the neglect of compost and the difficulty of procuring other manures, and the failure of the wheat and potatoe crops,—one person adds, the expense of bringing land into cultivation in his neighbourhood, (because of stones, I suppose,) and two assign the length of winter as a reason.

The reasons of those who affirm are all valid and sensible; and coming from men who have, I suppose, practised what they recommend, and proved it to be profitable, ought to have great weight with those who are in search of the truth on a matter so important to the Province.

Among the reasons of those who deny, the failure of the crops, were it certain to continue, would itself be conclusive, but these failures, it is to be hoped, will henceforth rarely occur, and the fatal losses they might occasion may in some measure be guarded against by sowing, (instead of a large breadth of one or two only,) a moderate portion of each of several crops, as the skillful British farmer does in his more changeable climate, under the assurance that if the seasons should be unpropitious to one or more of them, it will be favourable to the rest.

The proper introduction and use of manures will remove another of the reasons urged against the employment of paid labour. The objection, also, which is derived from the expense of bringing land into cultivation, applies only to limited portions of the settled country, and besides, does not bear upon the question, whether labour can be profitably employed upon land already in a state of cultivation.

As for the low price of produce in autumn, when wages have to be paid, it is not an evil to those who have a little ready money to pay without being obliged to sell; but to persons without means, it is an evil which is not peculiar to this Province, but is shared by them in common with the poorer farmers in every country of Europe. It will disappear in the case of each individual, in proportion as by frugality and industry, he can improve his own circumstances, and his consequent command of money.

It cannot be doubted, that if any means could be devised by which farmers without capital in money could be enabled to procure, for a time, such sums as the expense of employing labour make it necessary to him, before the yearly crops are brought to market, and by means of which advances he could hold back till the prices of produce attained an average height—a great boon would be conferred upon this class of the agricultural community. Upon this point, a Committee of the King's County Central Agricultural Society, in answering my circular queries, make the following remarks:—

"We are of opinion that farming can be profitably conducted in this Province, had farmers a small quantity of capital with which to pay labour, &c. Wages must be paid before the year's crop is converted into money, which

prevents that employment of labour which is necessary to the proper management of the farm. We would call your attention to the necessity of introducing into your Report, a recommendation of the formation of an agricultural Bank, or Banks, through the means of which farmers might be enabled to procure money to conduct their farms in a more profitable manner."

I am fully aware of the gravity and importance of the suggestion made in the above extract. I know also how much the system of Banking in Scotland has in reality, or is generally believed to have, promoted the improvement of that country, and the expenditure of money upon its soils. But I am too little acquainted with the practical operations of banking to venture a recommendation upon the subject. The difficulty appears to me to be in offering the banker a readily convertible security for his advances, on the part of the farmer, who possesses only his piece of land and his growing crops, in the present state of the land market of the country. I suppose that upon good personal security, cash credits will at present be as readily given by the bankers in New Brunswick as in the mother country. I can only therefore commend the matter to the consideration of those who, with a desire to improve the agriculture of the Province, and the condition of the valuable body of men who are practically engaged in it, possess also a knowledge of monetary affairs, which my own proper pursuits have not led me to acquire.

The only remaining reasons of those who deny—the low prices, the want of cash markets, and the competition of the United States—have been more or less fully discussed in the preceding and in the present Chapters of this report. I only remark here therefore that they are evils with which those who affirm have had to contend as well as those who deny. They must have had them in view when they wrote the opinions I have quoted above. In the face of such evils they have made the experiment; they say they have succeeded, and they affirm that others who will act in the same way will succeed as well as themselves.

All this is very hopeful for the Province, and I am willing to adopt, and to encourage others to adopt this hopeful view of the subject—as hope in all undertakings is a main element of success.

I am bound, however, to add, that by far the largest number of those with whom I personally discussed this question, during my tour through the various parts of the Province, were of opinion that labour at present prices could not be profitably employed in cultivating the land. On calmly reviewing all I have heard and seen, however, I am inclined to believe, as one of the answers above quoted states, that comparatively few of those who hold this opinion have fairly tried the use of paid labour; with another, that the labourers to be had in this country are generally very inferior, very troublesome, and often very vexatious to the farmer—but that on the whole, when good labourers can be got, they may be profitably employed in rural operations.

I would only observe in conclusion, that female labour, in nearly all parts of Europe, is employed in the lighter operations of husbandry. Especially in the dairy and turnip husbandry, the assistance of female helpers is considered indispensable to proper economy and success.—The extension of the turnip culture, so desirable at present for many reasons, will afford light and easy labour, upon which the females of the farmers, or of the farm labourers' families, might be usefully and profitably employed. Such labour in a field cannot surely be less becoming in a female, or less healthful, than labour in the cotton and weaving factories, to which so many of the females, both of this Province and of the New England States, now eagerly devote themselves.

(To be Continued.)

HORRIBLE ATTEMPT TO MURDER A WIFE BY HER HUSBAND.—Public indignation has seldom been excited by a more cold blooded and murderous attempt than that which, on Thursday last, was planned by Rolin Harmon, farmer and citizen of Kingsville. The contemplated victim was the wife of Harmon—young, amiable, industrious, and wedded to him but three months ago. She brought to her husband a handsome property; and it appears that the desire on his part, to have this to himself, was the motive, as the facts in evidence show, which moved him to plan the murder of his young wife. On Wednesday Mrs. H. noticed a strangeness in the movements of her husband. He seemed wrapt up in thought, and finally he came round her, told her he wished he was rid of her, and looked at her fixedly. He afterwards placed his hands around her waist, and then round her neck, and endeavoured to coax her out of doors. He was perfectly cool. He wished her to go out to the well, said the bucket had fallen in, that there was a white cloth at the bottom. She finally went out, but stood on the side of the curb opposite to him. But he worked round, pushed her violently, and she narrowly escaped being precipitated in. She then escaped to the house. Her husband was moody and silent. He did not go to bed at his usual hour, but hung on, and wished her to go before him. She finally retired. Through the night he never slept. He got up, went out of doors, and rolled on the grass in the door yard, then went and rolled on the bed till daylight. Mrs. H. had no one to consult with, and the strange conduct of her husband bewildered her. His violence at the well he explained to be done in jest, and he earnestly wished her to go out there again. She refused. His artifices to entice her out, and his manoeuvres to get his hired man out of the way, shew a cold-blooded perseverance in his purpose unparalleled in the annals of crime. This was on Thursday morning. The hired man was sent into the woods to hunt the cattle. Mrs. H. was engaged as far as her feelings allowed, in her household work, when her husband again wanted her to go out to the well, and on her refusal, he seized her suddenly—carried her out by main force, in spite of her struggles to escape the death to which she now felt he had doomed her. To stifle her cries, he placed his hand firmly on her mouth—his fingers and nails digging into, and holding on the upper part of

her face, and lacerating her eyelids. He had her now at the well; but the death struggle was not over. He could not force her over the curb. Suddenly he kicked away the curb and plunged her headlong into the well—thirty feet. The water was about three feet deep. He looked down, and saw that Mrs. Harmon was alive—had turned in her descent, and was standing there with water to the waist. He now called to her, and wished to draw her out. She spoke—she feared it was but to throw her in again. He then went to the barn, and procured the cords used in tying up the cattle. Mrs. H. was at last drawn up alive; her husband had not accomplished his purpose, and now he was anxious for her to change her clothes.—The hired man arrived at this juncture and was told by Harmon that Mrs. Harmon had fallen into the well. He shortly left and went to his brother's—returned, and harnessed his horses—said he was going to have them shod. The situation of Mrs. Harmon was dreadful—dreadfully bruised, her face bleeding, suffering from so fearful a shock, and dreading worse. She went out of the house, and through the grain and over the fences to Mr. Parker's, at whose door she fainted. It was long before she recovered and could tell what she had suffered and what she had escaped. Parker went over soon after to Harmon's—found him cool and collected, and had some conversation with him about the crops. Parker alluded to the accident, and Harmon assured him that it was a sad accident. Upon complaint made to J. G. Thurber a warrant was issued. Harmon was arrested and kept in custody through the night; but escaped from the person in charge, took to the woods, and was not retaken till after a long search. He drew a knife on Benson, who first discovered his hiding place, and threatened to "rip him up," he was arrested and committed to the county jail, on the charge of an assault with intent to kill. His bail was fixed at \$8,000. Mrs. H. lies in a precarious state at her father's house in Kingsville.—*Ashtabula (Ohio) Tel.*

FIRE IN CHATHAM.—It becomes our painful duty to record that another very disastrous fire occurred at Chatham on the afternoon of Wednesday last.

About half past one o'clock, when the workmen were at dinner, an alarm of fire was given, and immediately after, flames were perceived bursting out of the roof, and windows of that portion of the Foundry which had been previously saved with great exertion, when the mill of Messrs. Gilmour, Rankin & Co. was destroyed a short time since. The destructive element spread with fearful rapidity, and in an incredibly short time, the entire building, together with the greater portion of its valuable contents, consisting of materials, tools, moulds, &c., was consumed. But little was saved. The flames soon enveloped the stone building occupied by the proprietor of the building as a sale room, which also had a very narrow escape on the occasion alluded to, which was soon reduced to ruins.

It blew half a gale from the westward at the time, and as the cinders and blazing pieces of wood were carried to a considerable distance down the river, fears were entertained for the safety of the town; and had it not been that a sharp look-out was kept by parties about their premises, there is good reason to believe that our position to-day would have been very different from what it is.—Large cinders were picked up in various parts of the town, and one house situate a considerable distance from the foundry, and the chips in one of the ship yards, caught fire. Seeing that there was no possibility of saving the Foundry, the Firewards very judiciously ordered that the engine should play on the houses nearest, and to leeward of the fire, two of which had several times ignited. By these means the devouring element was confined to the buildings named above. A portion of the "burnt district" was burnt over again, and we are inclined to think that a considerable quantity of deals and other property on the wharf were destroyed. How the accident occurred it is impossible to tell, as there was no fire in the premises at the time; but it is presumed that it took from sparks emitted from the furnace in the new building erected since the previous fire, which was situate a short distance to windward of the one destroyed.

It is truly distressing to witness the scene of these two destructive fires—to contemplate the extensive ruins of the property destroyed, and the serious loss these two valuable establishments are to us, particularly at this juncture of affairs, when our trade is depressed, and employment difficult to procure.

We hope to see the foundry raise above its ruins, and in active operation, for we cannot imagine how ship building and mill work can be successfully carried on without it; and we would be equally glad if the spirited firm "over the river" would listen to the requisition so numerously signed, and which has been presented to them, representing the destruction of their Grist Mill as a great public loss, and urging them to rebuild it.

The foundry was owned by Mr. Bain, who had very recently made a purchase of it, and on which a very small sum was insured. The stone building was the property of the Hon. Thomas H. Peters, and we understand was insured.—*Miramichi Gleaner.*

SHIPWRECKS IN THE BAY.—Two fine vessels were lost in the Bay during the thick fog on Monday last. The ship *Alice Bentley*, Capt. Steel, from Liverpool for this port, with a large cargo of merchandise, valued at £19,000 Sterling, struck on the Murr Ledges, near Grand Manan, about 9 o'clock on Monday evening, and sustained so much damage that she sunk almost immediately. The officers and crew only escaped in the boats with what clothing they had on—every thing on board going down with the ship; as she sunk in deep water, nothing will be recovered from the wreck.—The *Alice Bentley* was owned by N. S. Demill, Esq., of this City, and was only partially insured.

The barge *Selma*, of and from Dundee, in ballast, for this port, consigned to Messrs. R. Rankin & Co., also went ashore the same night, on the southern head of Grand Manan, and became a total wreck. The crews of both vessels were saved, and arrived here on Tuesday evening in the steamer *Maid of Erin.*—*New Bruns.*