FARMS AND FARMING.

The surface of New Boston is broken, its abrupt hills indicating that Nature once got into a strange freak, and sought to make this region of country preëminent for its inequalities. But she gave a rich compensation in the fertility of the soil, and the grandeur of the forests. The branches of the Piscataguog, which traverse this region, have been distinguished for the superiority of the pine timber that bordered them, while her hills have been covered with a heavy growth of chestnut, beech, birch, maple, and hemlock. Wood here grows with surprising rapidity. With markets near, and prices renumerative, great quantities of wood for fuel are transported from the town, affording employment for many teams through the year, especially in winter. And the quantity of valuable timber for building, and other purposes, every year removed, is very large. The timber of New Boston has been inferior to that of no other town in the vicinity. Masts of great size have here been obtained for a long series of years. By royal authority, when New Hampshire was a colony of England, a road was constructed up the Piscataquog River, through Goffstown and Weare, and a branch extended into New Boston. This road has always been known as the "Mast Road," its construction being for the accommodation of "the masting business." Potter, in his "History of Manchester," says:—

"Some of the largest and most valuable masts, ever cut in the Province, were cut in Goffstown and New Boston. The old people relate that one was cut upon the farm of Jonathan Bell, of Goffstown, in the valley of the south branch of the Piscataquog, and about a half of a mile southwest of Goffstown, West Village, that exceeded in size, length, and symmetry, any other ever cut in this region. It was so large, that some of the teamsters drove a yoke of 'seven feet oxen' upon its stump, and turned them round with ease."

Owing to this abundance of timber, with corresponding mill facilities and convenient markets, lumbering has absorbed much of the interest and labor which ought to have been given to the soil. The lumbering business is more speedily remunera. tive, but the tilling of the soil better promotes the morals of a people, and far more tends to permanent wealth. tracts have been divested of rich growths, leaving the soil poor and worth but little; consequently the farms to which they were attached greatly depreciate, and are used for pastures or sold in fragments to surrounding neighbors; and thus many of the once most productive farms are lost on the map of the town, and the thousands of dollars received from the sale of lumber almost immediately finds investment in other towns; so that while individuals obtain large sums by divesting the soil of its growth, the town is, in reality, to the same extent impoverished. So much of the large growth has been removed, that there would be good reason to anticipate greater attention to farming, if the increase of wood did not nearly equal the amount removed. As it is, we think there is hope.

The surface of New Boston, as has been said, is distinguished for its abrupt inequalities. Her hills are precipitous, and the soil on their sides and tops is deep and friable, seldom suffering from droughts, and as little injured by "washings."

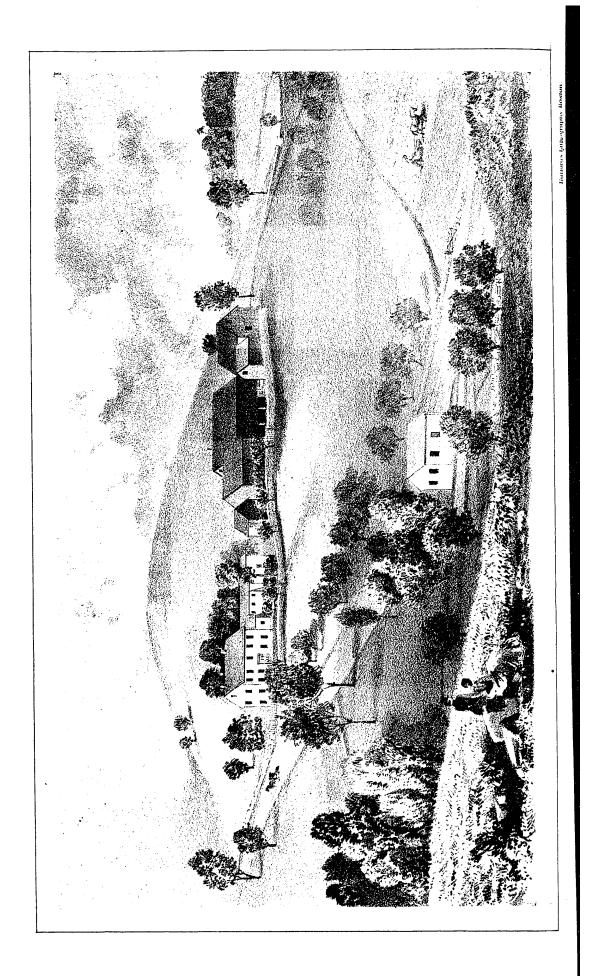
The rapid decay of minerals supplies the earth with needed salts, so that it is not impoverished by its annual production with a reasonable return from the stable. Corn, wheat, oats, barley, beans, and potatoes are cultivated with great success; and, unless positively abused, there is little soil in New Boston that does not repay the laborer. And he is a thriftless farmer who grows poor, possessed of a moderate amount of mother earth within our limits. Indeed, such is rarely or never the case with any sober and industrious man.

For a long time our restless youth have been eager to rush into the manufacturing towns and marts of trade, preferring a more rapid course to wealth, though full of hazards. This is owing partly to the little taste manifested, and the little regard shown to the higher needs of the family by parents, which have served to disgust many a youth with rural pursuits, and partly to the feverishness which pervades the whole country, by the

opening of new channels of trade and novel fields of activity. That farming is not a rapid road to wealth, is admitted; but that it is a sure road to competence, is undeniable. That it requires labor, it must be confessed; but the poor city clerk, who puts on better cloth, and assumes more attractive airs, to the confounding of country boys, has to labor more hours, and with more degrading obsequiousness, than the young man who tills the soil; while his chances of competence are by no means flattering.

Valuable as has been the timber of New Boston, we doubt if it has equalled her annual grass crop; productive as is the soil in the growth of the cereals, it is unsurpassed in its adaptedness to the cultivation of the grasses. Here the timothy, redtop, and cloven grow luxuriant, and are cultivated with facility. Large quantities of hay are every year conveyed to Manchester, Nashua, and other places, commanding remunerative prices, thus being a source of income to the farmer. Still, it is to be feared that too many calculate upon the ready cash it will bring, more than how they may enhance the fertility of the soil and increase its production. If hay is sold and its equivalent in fertilizing properties be not returned to the soil, the ground is necessarily impoverished to that extent. farmers of New Boston can afford to spare a portion of their grass crops, if judiciously cared for from the barn-cellars. this leads us to say that great improvements have been made, within the past few years, in the construction of barns and cellars for the reception of manures. It is now well understood that the thrifty farmer can multiply his fertilizers fourfold beyond that distributed to the land by our fathers; and the waste once witnessed on many a farm would now be deemed a reproach.

While New Boston boasts a rich soil and ample returns, she also takes pride in her herds and flocks. The pastures are naturally fertile and well-watered. The cattle that graze them are mostly of the native breed, greatly improved by being crossed with other breeds. They do not possess the great horns, narrow shoulders and rumps, as formerly, but are large, round, fine-looking animals, strong for labor, or meet for the stall, or ready to enrich the dairy. A few herds of pure Devons may



be found, but more crossed with the native breed. Now and then a Durham and Ayershire may be seen, but the cattle generally preferred are the first named. The number of cattle is large. The dairies though not large as formerly, yet are numerous and more remunerative, while present exorbitant prices obtained for butter and cheese would justify extension. Within the past few years more attention has been given to wool-growing; and the sheep once more is heard bleating upon our hills, from which for a time she seemed banished, evidently to the detriment of the soil and the loss of the farmer.

New Boston has always boasted a race of fine horses; and few towns can present a larger number of substantial and welltrained animals for the family and the road, than may here be found. The Scotch-Irish take great pride in driving a spirited steed, and count it reproach to be the owner of a mean animal from the days of good old Deacon Jesse Christy, whose horses never ran too fast for him, to the present young Americas. New Boston has won the palm at many a fair, and gloried in the animal "that smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains and the shouting." John Newton Dodge has taken the premium for horses; George Austin Wason, for Devon stock and horses; while Jacob Hooper and Solomon Dodge have carried off the premium for best farms, at county fairs. A brighter day, we think, is beginning to dawn upon the farming interests of New Boston, and the future promises to yield better results than the past. "The good time coming" for New Boston is when lumbering shall cease, and all men not required in other branches of activity shall count it their glory to own farms and excel in their cultivation; - where her youth shall no longer prefer to obtain a livelihood any way rather than by farming. A quiet home in the country, with pleasant surroundings, with means of intelligence and aids to refinement, which every thrifty farmer may have, is of all places the most secure of ills, and the most sure pledge of length of days, and of blessings that bring no sorrow with them. The farmer is not now necessarily ignorant of the world's activity, either in trade or politics. Cities are no longer the only centres of intelligence and refinement, but these centres may be found wherever there is a live tiller of the soil, or an active mechanic. His daily and weekly

newspaper keeps him as well-informed as if he lived in the great metropolis. And as to seeing, his horse, light of foot, soon bears him to the city to which he need be no stranger, or the iron horse that passes his door lands him in a short time in the midst of trade and attractions; nor is he less happy if his family be permitted to accompany him.

"In the year 1672, when throughout Great Britain only six stage-coaches were constantly going, a pamphlet was written by one John Cresset, of the Charter House, for their suppression; and among the many grave reasons given against their continuance is the following: 'These stage coaches make gentlemen come to London upon very small occasion, which otherwise they would not do, but upon urgent necessity; nay, the convenience of the passage makes their wives often come up, who, rather than come such long journeys on horseback, would stay at home. Here, when they have come to town, they must presently be in the mode, get fine clothes, go to plays and treats, and by these means get such a habit of idleness and love of pleasure, that they are uneasy ever after.'"

The farmers of New Boston have no such fears. Their sensible and intelligent wives and daughters may love to visit the city occasionally, that they may not forget how the world moves at the seat of fashions and inventions, but they are glad to return to the quiet seclusion of their happy rural homes, wiser, and better prepared for their duties than before. There is no longer ground of fear of "country cousins." They are as welleducated, have as much brain, and sometimes more heart than their city friends; and "country cousins," instead of being awed by the airs of city friends, have come to feel that theirs is the Self-respect will exist where there is homebetter inheritance. refinement and heart-culture. Let the farmers of New Boston resolve that they will make their homes nurseries of industry, intelligence, and virtue, and they will never pine for the pleasures of a city life. Let theirs be the sentiment, -

"Higher, higher will we climb
Up the mount of glory,
That our names may live through time
In our country's story;
Happy, when her welfare calls,
He who conquers, he who falls.

- "Onward, onward will we press
 Through the path of duty;
 Virtue is true happiness,
 Excellence true beauty:
 Minds are of supernal birth,
 Let us make a heaven of earth.
- "Close and closer then we knit
 Hearts and hands together,
 Where our fireside comforts sit
 In the wildest weather:
 Oh! they wander wide, who roam
 For the joys of life, from home.
- "Nearer, dearer bands of love
 Draw our souls in union,
 To our Father's house above,
 To the saints' communion.
 Thither every hope ascend,
 There may all our labors end."

According to the United States census for 1860, the population of New Boston is 1,369,—white males, 682; white females, 681; free colored males, 2; and colored females, 4. The population of Hillsborough County is 62,140. The population of the bordering towns is as follows: Francestown, 1,082; Goffstown, 1,740; Weare, 2,310; Bedford, 1,172; Amherst, 1,508; Mont Vernon, 725; Lyndeborough, 823. The total population of the State is 325,579.

The following columns show that the number of owners or managers of farms is 170; number of acres of improved land, 16,306; acres of unimproved land, 4,352; cash value of the farms is set down at \$477,190; the value of implements and machinery is \$20,658; number of horses, 281; milch cows, 546; working oxen, 342; other cattle, 857; sheep, 723; swine, 406; the value of live stock, \$82,086; number of bushels of wheat, 2,094; bushels of rye, 1,319; bushels of Indian corn, 10,885; bushels of oats, 4,410; pounds of wool, 1,867; bushels of peas and beans, 391; bushels of Irish potatoes, 18,797; bushels of barley, 996; cash value of orchard products, \$5,974; pounds of butter, 47,025; pounds of cheese, 18,152; tons of hay, 3,686; value of slaughtered animals, \$11,058.

CENSUS OF 1756.

Taken Sept. 21, 22, 23, 24.

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For whom Settled.	Jno. Homans Robert Boyce, Esq. James Day John Steel. Thos. Cochran Blair Townesend James Wilson Joseph Right Rahh Imman Wm. Speakman John Love. Daniel Pecker James Wilson
Number of Acres.	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
Names of the Settlers.	Jno. McCallester Jno. McCallester Janes Ferson John Blare William Blare Wm. McNeal Thos. Smith Samuel Smith Samuel Smith Samuel Smith Samuel Smith Thos. McNeal Thos. Gochran Thos. Cochran Jas. Wilson John Burn And'w Walker
Numbers of Lots.	No. 19 56 64 64 61 831 841 74 108 108 47 128 22, 64, % 94

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Jas. McNeal		
Home lot. 42, 16, 2 D, 114 30 22 22 29 27		

Saw Mill, Griss Mill, and Dam complete.

We the proprietors subscribers, a Committee appointed to view the settling, rights and lotts in New Boston, accordingly have view'd the same and due report as set forth in this list.

NEW BOSTON, Sept. 25, 1756.

JOHN HILL, ROB'T JENKINS, Committee.

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ERRATA.

Page 10, seven lines from top, for occasion, read occasions.

Page 75, ten lines from top, for suns, read sons.

Page 101, eleven lines from bottom, for mother, read mothers.

Page 200, nineteenth line from top, for leader, read lawyer.

Page 242, nine lines from top, for out, read only.

Page 264, twelve lines from top, for Doge, read Dodge.

Page 307, seven lines from top, before Thomas, insert Samuel Anderson, residing in Providence, R. I.

Page 369, seventeen lines from top, for McLaughen, read McLaughlen.

Page 440, eleven lines from bottom, for here, read there.

