

# **FARMING FOR THE MILLION**

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Farming for the Million by George Glenny

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**GEORGE GLENNY**

**FARMING FOR  
THE MILLION**



# FARMING FOR THE MILLION

BY

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"GARDENING FOR THE MILLION," "THE HANDY BOOK OF GARDENING," "THE MANUAL  
OF PRACTICAL GARDENING," "THE GARDENER'S EVERY DAY BOOK."  
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## FARMING FOR THE MILLION.

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"FARMING is Farming," as a grave counsellor told us when he first saw our title; "and what is right for one is right for all" added our sapient friend. He farmed a hundred acres, and could not be made to understand that the plans of farmers varied according to the circumstances under which they were placed; nor that anything but corn growing once in four years, feeding lean sheep till they were fat, and sundry other operations carried out upon a hundred acres, exactly as his great-grandfather had done before him, could be called Farming. Our notions were very different; we knew, as well as our monitor, that the tilling of land, the feeding of stock, the keeping of pigs, poultry, pigeons, horses, and cows, the making of cheese and butter, would constitute a true farmer; but while the few practised all these branches, the million only compassed a portion: one lot, perhaps, went no further than keeping poultry; another, a pig; a third portion, only kept a cow, and so on; every one of these subjects being a branch in farming, and almost everybody, with a few rods of land, practising one or more; so that, while he who took up farming in all its bearings could only act upon a system which embodied all, and rendered one conducive to the profitable management of another, the million required that each subject should be independent of all the others; that is to say, that poultry-keeping should be, not only separately treated, but that fowls, ducks, geese, turkeys, and pigeons, should be separately

handled. That the keeping of a cow, and the most profitable use of her produce should be explained; that the feeding of a pig, the management of a horse, and the general business of a stable; in fact, that each subject should be as perfect and as distinct from all other matters as possible.

If we have succeeded in our attempt, we shall have rendered this little volume useful to each individual servant on the largest farm, while every cottager will be enabled, in the most economical way, to practise any one branch on the smallest scale, or to manage any quantity on a first-rate farm. In offering the following pages, we do not propose to enlighten the professional farmer, although he may learn from them some lessons of economy; we do not presume to teach the scientific few, although even those may discover hints that may be useful; all we attempt is, to assist the many who, with scanty means, endeavour to improve their circumstances by keeping one or more of these stocks, or by cultivating one or more of the crops, to obtain a produce, which forms the business of the farmer; and there is one gratifying fact, which is encouraging to the man of the most limited means, however humble his stock in numbers, or his crops in quantity, he may challenge the best farmer in his county as to quality. The cottage-farmers' fatted pig, his butter, eggs, milk, or his quarter of an acre of turnips, whichever he may be striving to produce, may equal those of the best farmer, or the most wealthy gentleman in his neighbourhood, just as the vegetables of the cottager, in most cases, beat those of all the gentlemen at the Horticultural shows; and we desire to enable the humble cultivator of the soil to rival his richer neighbour as cheaply as possible.



There is no difficulty in producing good crops and fine stock, where money is no object; our business is, to show how a man may excel in any one subject without throwing away money that can never be returned to him by the sale of his productions. We have seen pigs fed and fatted at a cost of one shilling per pound, and sold at half the money; and have heard a careless stupid man cry out, that "pig-keeping was unprofitable." We have known people to keep fowls, and declare that every egg cost three halfpence, all of which may be very true, but it betrays ignorance and extravagance in the management. Economy is of the highest importance.

We are not about to show how cheaply a cottage can be built, or to give a fine description of a model farm: we take the world as it is. The millions of cottagers who may desire information have to make the best of the habitations they possess, and can neither choose their locality nor their soil; it would be a perfect absurdity to tell them what their cottage should be, or the situation it should occupy. It would be mockery to tell a man who is obliged to live in a swamp, that he ought to be on a hill. We write for the million, who are limited in their means, and want to improve them; who know a little, and wish to know more; who are ambitious to better their condition, and wish to know how. Our first injunction will be, to rigidly practise economy; for, in ignorance of what they do, an immense waste is committed, not only by the people, but by the government; and frightful as the fact may appear, that which has been suffered to pollute our rivers, would, if saved and sold for the land, have produced enough to have wiped out the whole of the national debt.

## ECONOMY.

## THE WASTE OF HOUSES AND GARDENS.

"Waste not, want not."

EVERY description of perishable matter is valuable as manure:—slops and sewage, soap-suds and pot liquor, vegetable remains, dead animals, bones, offal, whatever will rot is of use. The first duty, therefore, of the economists, is to provide a receptacle for every description of waste liquids and solids, and this should be rendered water-tight, for if the liquids will soak away, they are so much value lost.

In the remote parts of the country, where cement is not to be had, and bricks and stone are dear, the only substitute is clay, and puddling in the same manner as is adopted for artificial or ornamental ponds to keep the water in. This puddling is performed by kneading the clay with water until the air is completely expelled, and the whole bottom and sides are lined with this six inches thick at the least. The form and size must be determined by the largest quantity likely to be there at any time; the situation must be determined by the convenience to be provided; the purposes for which the contents are to be used is the dressing of the ground; the object is to keep it as far as possible from the house; yet it ought to be contrived that the night-soil should drain at once into it, and that water can be pumped into it when necessary. To this place should

everything waste be taken; from this place should a valuable fertilising liquid be withdrawn. For choice, the cess-pool, for such it must be called, should be lined with bricks and cement, because it may then be covered. But it may be that this cannot be afforded—it may be that even puddling of the sides and bottom cannot be accomplished. In this case we must not attempt to save it as a liquid, but to find material that shall soak it up, and the best of all these is charcoal, peat, moss, and wood-ashes. Under these circumstances, dry and char, or half burn, all the vegetable rubbish you can get, and as much waste wood as can be had, throw a good quantity of this to the bottom of a hole dug on purpose, upon this throw all the slops, and soil, and waste; it will rapidly be soaked up, and the charcoal will remove all the disagreeable smell. When the wet will no longer soak into it, throw some more charcoal in, because the moisture would otherwise filter away and be lost; but so long as the wet is absorbed, it loses nothing. Where there is peat in the neighbourhood, it can be charred and applied as often as the wet predominates. If the hole is filled before you are ready to use it on the land, dig another; but the manure thus formed is only second to the liquid manure, because it has to dissolve in the soil before the plants can take it up, whereas the liquid manure is taken up instantly.

Where you cannot conveniently dig a hole, but must form a dung-heap, make your charcoal, form a heap first, with a hollow in the centre, into which let all the waste be thrown; and instead of allowing the night-soil to go down into a cess-pool in the ordinary way, contrive that vessels, say tubs, shall be placed, so that full ones can be removed for emptying on the dung-heap, and empty ones placed there instead, because in the cess-pool there