

material of the bark kind that ever was used. It is as follows: In June, go to some sawmill, where the basswood logs that were cut down green the previous winter, are not yet worked up, and peel them as a woodman would peel hemlock bark for the tanner; or if you have no such place to go to, cut down a basswood tree in the woods; then put the bark thus obtained into the creek, or under water, peeled side down, so as not to have it get muddy, and let it remain from two to three weeks; then take it out, and the inside will peel off as soft and fine as any Russia matting ever used. In fact, I think this must be the way that Russia matting is obtained. This kind of string is stout, pliable, and very cheaply obtained. It is used by nurserymen in budding young trees, by hop-growers in tying up their vines, and by market gardeners in tying up their vegetables they send to market in bunches, such as radishes, onions, beets, turnips, &c.

Every one who is obliged to use strings will find basswood bark, obtained in this way, the best and cheapest they ever used.

#### MECHANICAL SKILL USEFUL TO FARMERS.

**T**HE general introduction of machinery for farm uses necessitates an additional knowledge among the farmers themselves; that whereas, with the former simple tools of the farm the operator had only to study the capabilities of his soil, the adaptation and cultivation of his crops by such simple processes, now he is obliged beyond these, to understand the philosophy and working of machinery, which is often so complex in its construction that none but an educated mechanic can well comprehend its proper management. The man who sets up a steam mill has his regular engineer, whose sole business it is to attend the engine; but the farmer, with all his various machines for planting, cultivating, harvesting, threshing, &c., must be his own engineer and keep his tools in order, or they will go to destruction.

The multiplication of farm machinery, in its turn begets a necessity for a variety of tools with which to keep the machinery in order, or to make repairs as parts give way. To this end the farmer must have his workshop and his sets of tools where such operations can be performed, and he must learn the philosophy of his machines and the use of the tools necessary to keep them in repair.

No farmstead should be without its workshop and a fair set of tools. Time was when if a farmer had a handsaw, a hammer, an iron square, an inch auger, a gimlet, and a jack-plane, he felt equipped for all the mechanical emergencies of farm life; but with the introduction of modern labor-saving machines, that time has passed away, and the workshop becomes a necessity upon the farm. It is just as much a part of the practical education of the farmer's boy to learn the use of the tools in the workshop as it is to know how to handle the hoe, the axe, or the spade, or any of the implements of farm work.

The farmer's workshop should be a place convenient of access, snugly enclosed so as to be heated in winter to make it a comfortable place to work in; furnished with a work bench to which is attached a vice or screw for holding materials which needs to be held firmly while being worked; and stocked with planes, augurs, bits, saws, hatchets, hammers, wrenches, nails, screws, screw-driver, and all such little things as convenience suggests, for the various operations which are required. Such a place will be worth more towards the education of the boys than half they will learn in college, and for convenience and necessity for the farm operations will be one of the best investments which can be made about the farm.

#### UPPER STORIES.

**A**T farmers' houses and most other houses the sleeping rooms of those who labor are reckoned as of little account in regard to beauty of arrangement, if even comfort is taken into consideration. The good woman who takes her prayer-book and goes to church so regularly, wishing in her honest heart that some good might be thrown in her way to accomplish, might turn right back and cast a thought towards Biddy's chamber if it happens to be large enough to assume the dignity of the name. It is cheerless enough, surely; not calculated to elevate any fledgling notions of neatness, order or beauty in Biddy's brain; carpetless, curtainless, and a good many other things—less. In most households, the room of the maid-of-all-work is merely a place where they tumble in at night—the door being securely closed during the day, for what lady housekeeper would even like to have a visitor suspect that there ever existed in the house such a looking room as the one