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**THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.**

That weeds constitute the greatest barrier to agricultural improvement, and the profitable employment of farm capital, must appear self-evident to every one having a practical acquaintance with the subject. Some of the best yielding wheat soils twenty years ago, both in Canada and the neighboring States, have, in consequence of over cropping and negligent culture, become so much exhausted and filled with the seeds of the different varieties of weeds, as to be wholly incapable of yielding a remunerative crop; and no inconsiderable portion of such lands may now be regarded, for all practical purposes, as in a state of wilderness; not occupied, unfortunately, with stately forest trees, but with various species of pestiferous weeds, the bane of all successful cultivation. Even on lands where weeds have not as yet obtained so complete an ascendancy, their presence indicates a low and slovenly system of culture, entailing annual loss to the farmer, and through him to the public, of an aggregate amount, which, if it could be correctly ascertained, would appear really frightful. Every weed, it should be remembered, that is suffered to grow and mature, robs the cultivated crop of a certain amount of food, lowers the stamina of the soil, and operates most seriously against any improved and profitable system of cultivation.

In order to eradicate weeds effectually they should never be allowed to perfect their seeds. A strict adherence to this rule would, in a

comparatively short time, rid the farm of all such as are annual or bi-ennial. Those which propagate themselves by roots must be removed by careful pulling, and deeply stirring the ground by exposing the rootlets to the action of heat and air, during the operation of summer fallowing. It is well known to vegetable physiologists that plants in general cannot live without leaves; and that to denude weeds of their leaves whenever they make their appearance, will so diminish their vigour as ultimately to cause them to perish. All kinds of thistles must sooner or later succumb to such treatment. Docks, mulleins, &c., may the most readily be got rid of by pulling them up by the roots, when the ground is in a moist state. The yellow dock is rapidly spreading in some localities by allowing it to run to seed, and great care should be taken to pull the young plants before they become matured. Bur-docks are often found occupying the best grounds, to the complete exclusion of everything beside: these can only be eradicated by completely up-rooting them. The destruction of this and other bur-bearing plants is a matter of great moment, not only to the productiveness of cultivated crops, whether grass or grain, but also to the comfort and thriftiness of sheep, which are always incommoded and injured thereby.

If farmers would make a point of cutting down bushes and weeds as soon as they attain to any considerable height, the appearance of their holdings would not only be greatly