

intendant of common school in the State of New-York recommends it highly for the use in all their schools. From long acquaintance with the work and from the interest we know is excited by its study, we most cordially advise all to form classes in it and give it a trial, being well assured of the result. As it is a small book, the cost is trifling, and the time required of little moment, but as the author here exhibits the happy faculty both of condensing and simplifying without weakening or detracting from the subject, the treatise is very complete. The first three questions and answers will give you an idea of the whole.

Q.—What is Agriculture?

A.—Agriculture is the art of cultivating the soil.

Q.—What is the object of the farmer in cultivating the soil?

A.—The object of the farmer in cultivating the soil, is to raise the largest crops, at the smallest cost, and with the least injury to the land.

Q.—What ought the farmer especially to know, in order that he may attain this object?

A.—The farmer ought especially to know the nature of the crops he raises, of the land on which they grow, and of the manures which he applies to the land.

Crops, soils, manures, the rearing and feeding of animals, and the management of the dairy, make up the volume. Teachers who would prepare themselves for instruction in it, would find the more extended treatises by the same author, viz, "Johnston Elements" and "Johnston Lectures," most valuable aids, as also "Norton's Elements of Scientific Agriculture," a prize essay of the New-York State Agricultural Society.—*Homestead.*

Mulching Potatoes.

MR. EDITOR. The potato being one of our most important crops, I think it would be well to try and see if we cannot raise it sooner, and at a saving of labor and means. You have read of the experiments tried on a small scale of raising potatoes, by merely placing them on the sod, and covering them with eight inches of straw, being careful to wet the straw.

I am going to try it on a quarter of an acre, and in the fall will let you know the result of my experiment. I hope some of your numerous subscribers will also give it a fair trial and report the result. This is a cheap way of raising them, as in the fall you have only to rake off the straw and pick up your potatoes.

N.

Remarks on the Principles of Breeding.

Breeding, with a view to improvement, may be said to be founded on Nature's established law, that "like begets like." This, however, is only true in part, for there is a constant tendency to change, arising from a variety of causes; such as domestication, living in a different climate, or on a different kind of food. The management to which animals are subject has also, its influence. While these may be looked upon as the chief causes in operation, that produce this constant change, they are the means, at the same time, in connection with other causes, which are used to effect an improvement.

In order to improve the breed, there are two modes advocated by practical breeders. One is commonly called the "in-and-in system," and the other that of "crossing." The former was practised many years ago, by Mr. Bakewell, of England, which, at