

From every direction, North, South, East and West, come to us mournful stories of the diminution of crops by the drought, and in too many instances of their total destruction from the running of fires in the woods. We began cutting our extracts from our exchanges descriptive of these evils, but we found we should soon fill our paper, and desisted. Our private advices tell of a tremendous fire in the neighbourhood of Huntingdon, another in the vicinity of St. Timothee, and a third in rear of Cornwall, destroying trees and fences, crops, and in some cases barns and outhouses with their contents. There is every reason to apprehend a famine, or something like it. Crops of every kind will not be over a third to a half of an average, and there is nothing for cattle to feed on, either to give milk or fatten for the butchers.—*Montreal Paper.*

The *N. Y. Tribune* takes a gloomy view of the harvest prospects of the New England States and New York. The great drought appears to extend over them all.

We have heard experienced farmers observe, that though they have often heard of dry seasons towards harvest, they never knew such seasons to turn out badly on the whole. For the superior quality of the hay made up for deficiency in the quality of the straw, and a superiority of grain from its loss of bulk.

In this climate, however, it is altogether deficient. From the shortness of the seasons, and, in a great measure, from the want of deep tillage, and loosening of the soil, the roots of the plants are very superficial, and they are easily withered, and from the great power of the sun, the grain does not fill, but shrivels—and, of course, gives a light yield, and more bran than flour.

The potatoes are, so far, turning out very well, and should rain come on, of which there is every prospect, an abundant crop may be expected. The early varieties, which are all that has yet come into market, are of a very superior quality.—*Montreal Paper.*

We understand that the drought is very severe in Northern Massachusetts. At Fitchburg and vicinity every thing is parched and great damage done to the crops. The river is very low and the want of water causes the greatest inconvenience. In some parts of the town there have been destructive fires, and the farmers have had to work very hard in beating off the flames. At Ashburnham Junction, the fire got into a pile of wood belonging to the railway company, and several hundred cords were destroyed.—*Boston Traveller.*

**SELF-REGULATING WINDMILL**—Daniel Halliday, a mechanic in an obscure country village, Ellington, Connecticut, has done what the world of mechanics has sought for in vain for centuries. He has invented and put in successful operation a windmill with self-furling sails. The mill built by him has five feet wings, that is, the diameter of the

wind-wheel is ten feet, and has been in operation for six months without a hand being touched to it to regulate the sails. It runs fifteen days at one time without stopping day or night, and it has stood through some hard gales; the beauty of the improvement is, that it does stand still when the wind rages, hardest, with the edge of the wings to the wind, and as it lulls they gradually resume their position for a gentle breeze. It is so contrived that nothing but a squall of great severity falling upon it without a moment's warning can produce damage.

The mill mentioned has drawn water from a well twenty-eight feet deep, one hundred feet distant, and forced it into a small reservoir in the upper part of the barn, sufficient for all farm purposes, garden irrigation, and "lots to spare." The cost of such mill will be \$50; and the pumps and pipes about \$25. It is elevated on a single oak post a foot square, the turn circle being supported by iron braces. The wings are made of one longitudinal iron bar, through which run small rods: upon these rods, narrow boards half an inch thick are fitted, holes being bored through from edge to edge, and screwed by nuts on the ends of the rods. This makes strong light sails, but as will be seen are fixtures not to be furled or clewed up; but they are thrown up edge to the wind by a very ingenious and simple arrangement of the machinery, which obviates the great objection to windmills for farm use; the necessity of constant supervision of the sails to suit the wind.—*Ham. Gazette.*

#### HARVEST PROSPECTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND.

During the last six weeks we have had the opportunity of observing the crops in the greater part of England, that is, from Liverpool through the counties of Chester, Salop, Hereford, Gloucester, Somerset and Devon, to Plymouth; from Exeter, through Dorsetshire, Hampshire, Suffolk, and Kent, to the Straits of Dover; all up the Valley of the Thames, through Middlesex, Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, and back again to Liverpool, through Essex, Cambridge, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Cheshire. Our impression is that the hay crop is everywhere very light, and that the spring corn was very backward, although it has generally improved since the recent rains, and that wheat is very fair in all parts of the kingdom, and more than usually good in Cambridgeshire, and two or three other districts. With the exception of the Isle of Ely, where the wheat crop was so heavy as to be in danger from any great of fall rain, we believe that the recent rains will have done much more good than harm, for the straw, of the wheat is not rank in any part of the kingdom that we have seen, and the grain is not sufficiently advanced to be easily knocked down. Supposing the weather of the present month to be moderately favora-

ble, we believe that there will be a good average crop of wheat, if not of all kinds of grains, through the several counties mentioned above. The potatoes everywhere look well, and the late rains have been extremely favourable to the newly-sown turnips, and the after-grass of the meadows.—*Liverpool Times.*

Among the items of knowledge which the past season has either taught for the first time, or confirmed by additional evidence, we would name this—that ammonia can very certainly be prevented from escaping from heaps of horse or other manure by sprinkling thereon some gypsum, and a solution of sulphuric acid. Having no convenient way of protecting the manure from the horse stable, and confident that all the ammonia which our nostrils informed us was making its escape from the manure heap near the stable, was so much dead loss to us, we put a small keg of plaster into the stable so as to be convenient whenever the smell or any other circumstance should remind us of our duty to our fertilizing treasures. Two or three times a week, or when the escaping ammonia assailed our nostrils, we sprinkled a handful or two of plaster over the manure heap, and generally in the course of the same day we scattered over it about a pailful of water having mixed with it about a fourth part of a teacupful of sulphuric acid or vitriol. After these applications we could detect no such smell as before, and concluded, therefore, that the ammonia had in some way been fixed so that it could no longer make its escape. Agricultural chemists would call this, I suppose, changing the carbonate of ammonia into the sulphate. Whatever it may be called in chemical phraseology, we are satisfied that it is an effectual mode of preventing evaporation and loss, which affect equally the farmer's crops and pockets. If some of our readers would try the experiment of applying plaster and water slightly acidulated with oil of vitriol, we should probably hear from them, some year or two hence, such favorable reports of the practice as would persuade all, save the laziest, to adopt it.—*Country Gentleman.*

#### THE CULTURE OF ONIONS.

**MR. EDITOR:**—My success in raising onions, has led many to ask "how is it done." They say the maggot and the large brown worm have been so destructive that they have done trying to raise that valuable vegetable. In answer to such inquiries permit me to reply.

There are at least six kinds of onions. But they are of the same species. The leek, the garlick, the hill-onion, the top-onion, the red and the silver onions. From the fact, that whenever onions have been found growing wild, they are always found most plentifully and most flourishing in muck soil, I have taken the hint to prepare my