

gestions, in the hope rather of mitigating than of effecting an immediate removal of the evil; the latter being, we fear, at present far beyond the reach of human agency.

And *first*, when we properly consider the *extremely imperfect manner* in which land is generally prepared for wheat, and the *short intervals* allowed between the same kind of crops, a certain deterioration both in quantity and quality is a result that might naturally be expected. We have been persevering in the practice of extracting, by incessant grain crops of a near affinity, those various constituents, without a certain proportionate amount of which no soil can be fertile, or profitably cultivated. As rich, virgin soils are common, found to yield a succession of bountiful crops under a rude and imperfect culture, farmers unwisely and, perhaps, unconsciously, have been induced to persist in the system till they discovered, to their cost, that their land refused its wonted returns. Shallow and imperfect ploughing, with an occasional scratching of the surface and covering the seed by the harrow, in the rudest manner, have too generally been considered sufficient for the mechanical preparation of the seed bed. And in addition to all this, land is too commonly kept in grain crop, without often any kind of manure, till it refuses to yield a profitable return.

*Secondly*—Land intended for wheat should not only be naturally adapted to the plant, and receive a deep and thorough cultivation, and when necessary a proper manuring, but it must also be *sound and dry*. This latter condition is the one most essential, in the absence of which, manures, and the most perfect cultivation will be, to a great extent, thrown away. In wet lands, however rich they may be in all the elements of fertility, *draining* is an essential preliminary to the profitable raising of grain, *especially wheat*. If this simple condition were obtained, we should hear comparatively little complaint of rust, winter-killing, &c. A wet soil is always cold and late, the opposite of which, viz: *warm and early*, are of the greatest consequence in wheat-culture.

*Thirdly*—The judicious selection of such varieties of wheat as are suited to particular soils and climate, with an occasional change of seed and strict attention to its purity and uniformity of ripening, are matters which demand special attention. As a general rule *early sowing*, leaving the precise time to be determined by the character of the season, the mechanical and chemical condition of the soil, and local circumstances, is a consideration of by no means secondary importance. If the land be very light and porous, the application of a heavy roller would be beneficial; and sowing with the drill, when practicable, is always to be preferred. The seed is in this way more regularly deposited and evenly covered, thereby securing a greater uniformity in germination, growth and ripening, and rendering the young plant far more secure against the effects, or as it is termed, "heaving out," by the alternations of freezing and thawing in early spring.

We would by no means insinuate that these few but, as they appear to us, most important precautions, would in all situations, and in all seasons, render our wheat crops invulnerable and certain, especially against that now too common and most destructive pest—the midge. But we only utter the words of truth and soberness, as the most careful observation and enlightened experience testify, when we say that natural unsuitability of soil and climate, both of which may frequently be modified by art, want of drainage, sowing wheat too rapidly in succession, or otherwise over-cropping, too late sowing, with imperfect cultivation, and impure, or inferior, dirty seed, are the chief and *often the only causes* of producing a sickly wheat plant, (and indeed of whatever other crop that may be cultivated,) thereby rendering it peculiarly fitted to be afflicted by the midge, or any other species of blight, in the numerous catalogue of disasters which afflict our grain crops.

If the ravages of insects, rust, &c., should unfortunately prove too powerful