

## The Wheat Midge.

A correspondent of the *Rural New-Yorker* of 22d of May, dating from Monroe Co., N. Y. says:

"As it is a matter of serious contemplation with the farmers of the Genessee Valley whether the wheat midge will remain permanently among us or not, it becomes important to know, as far as possible, how long they may be expected to bring ruin and desolation to our wheat crop."

And he asks:

"How long have they already been infecting districts and localities visited by them before us? Is there a reasonable prospect that they will show us the cold shoulder and take their final exit soon? Or shall we be compelled, (against our will and interest too,) to change our system of farming altogether, or may we hope for a better time coming."

Judging from our long acquaintance with the wheat midge and its ravages, we can offer the writer of the above, no hope "for a better time coming," and think it will be a long time before the midge will give the wheat growers of Monroe county the "cold shoulder, and take their final exit." It is now about twenty-five years since it first made its appearance in New-Hampshire, and its ravages were greater on our wheat crops last season, than on almost any previous year; they being much more abundant on the "hill farms" than ever before known, while in the valleys many fields produced little more than the seed sown. But from their first appearance among us till now, they have every year damaged the crops of spring wheat, some years to greater extent than in other seasons.

Says the late Dr. HARRIS, in his Report on Insects:

"The country over which it has spread, has continued to suffer more or less from its alarming depredations, the loss by which has been found to vary from about one tenth part to nearly the whole of the annual crop of wheat; nor has the insect entirely disappeared in any place till it has been starved out by a change of agriculture, or by the substitution of late spring wheat for the other varieties of grain."

Very early sown spring wheat sometimes escapes the ravages of the insect, it having become too far advanced before the annual appearance of the fly—so too, very late sown, that sown as late as the 25th of May, generally escapes the midge, the fly having disappeared before the grain is in blossom; but there is greater liability to rust, mildew, blight, &c., on the very late sown wheat, than on that sown early.

About six years ago some of our farmers began to sow winter wheat, and they were successful. The quantity sown each successive year has greatly increased. When sown from the 20th of August to 15th of September, on suitable ground, and properly manured and put in, we scarcely know of a failure to reap good crops; and of such in no instance have we known any injury to them from the midge. Why the midge should ruin your Genessee Valley winter wheat and leave ours unscathed, is a mystery not so easily solved. Our winter wheat gets the start of the midge! Why don't yours?

Last year we had three small fields of winter wheat on different varieties of soil, but all did well, getting a return of about twenty fold for seed sown; also had, within a short distance, a field of spring-sown wheat. At harvest time the grain would average four and a half feet high—heads at least five inches in