Men of taste and intelligence are now ambitious of being agriculturists; and schools and colleges for training the sons of farmers are beginning to attract attention, and will soon work a change in the public sentiment in regard to the respectability and importance of the agricultural profession.

This brings us to the point on which we proposed to make a few suggestions, when we took up our pen. We wish to see the farmer's home—the farmer's life—made more attractive. Hitherto, as a general thing, the improvements which have been made are of the *useful* kind, having reference mainly to the supply of man's physical wants. Most of our farms must be regarded as mere manufactories of food and clothing; very little has been done to gratify the intellect, taste, or feelings—the higher and nobler attributes of our nature. And this is one reason, beyond a doubt, why many young persons who have, by means of education, reading, and society, acquired a certain degree of refinement, become dissatisfied with agricultural life, and have sought the city. Intelligent, educated men, cannot surely remain satisfied with being mere growers of grain and breeders of stock,—they must love their home; and to merit their love and attachment, that home must possess something of beauty, for the love of the beautiful is an instinct of man's nature. A large portion of the population is continually on the move;—the old home has no hold on their affections—or at least not enough to overcome the novelty of a new one. We see the population diminishing in the very heart of the finest agricultural districts in America, where nothing is so much needed as human beings. It is at certain seasons impossible to procure laborers enough to do the work. This state of things is unfavorable to the perfect development of the country's resources, and equally unfavorable to the attainment of a higher and happier social condition.

It is not unreasonable, we trust, to expect, and even to urge, some reform on this point. Make home attractive;—cultivate the taste, and feelings, and affection, as well as you do your fields. Why should a wealthy farmer, with his 50, 100, or 200 or 300 acres of land, content himself with a rod or two of a door-yard, and a dozen of shade trees, shaped and managed after the precise fashoin of a village plot? Why can he not, just as well, have a park and pleasure-ground of several acres around his house, broad glades of lawn, and groups of trees, separated from the cultivated portions of the farm by green hedges? This, well stocked orchard and and good ample kitchen-garden, would come up to our ideas of a country home; and it would be impossible for children to grow up in such a home without becoming attached to it, and having their tastes expanded, their feelings refined, or without appreciating the comforts and blessings of a country life. A rod or two of a door-yard for a farmhouse!—what a mockery! There is something incongruous in the very look of it that cannot fail to strike every observing person. —*Horticulturist.*

CHEAP ICE-HOUSE.

The following is a plan of a cheap and convenient ice-house—one which every farmer can afford to have.

Make a box eight feet square, by nailing hemlock planks which are two inches thick, on to hemlock scantling. Let one side of the box be seven feet high, and the side opposite ten feet high. This gives a roof eight feet long, with a slant of three feet. It is well to have the roof boards extend over the sides of the box. Double boarding with hemlock makes a sufficient roof. Set this box on the top of the ground, in a dry and shady place, where surface water will not accummulate. No planks are needed at the bottom of the box, but sawdust must be placed on the ground inside the box to the depth of one foot, and over this place loose boards for the ice to lie upon. Cut the cakes of ice two feet square, and build a tower of ice six feet square in the centre of your box, (or ice-house, we will now call it,) by laying the cakes compactly together, and filling all crevices with sawdust as you proceed. We have now six feet cubic of ice, with a space of one foot all around between the ice and planks. Fill this space with sawdust, and cover the top of the ice with the same eighteen inches deep, and you have ice enough secured to last a family through the season. The upper three feet of the side which is ten feet high, should not be boarded up, but left for ventilation, and a place of access to the ice, and this aperture may be enlarged as convenience may require while using the ice, and for more conveniently filling in. About 800 feet of lumber will be required, and the merest tyro in the use of tools, can make it. Fresh sawdust is best, but it may be used a second winter. The dust can easily be washed from the ice at the time of using.

The importance of giving a better education to farmers as a class, is becoming quite a common topic in the addresses delivered at our annual Fairs, and I think the good effects of these alone can hardly be over estimated. The truth is that hitherto as a class, they have had no rallying point. They have almost nothing of that *esprit de corps* which belongs to other professions, and as the business naturally confines them for the most of the time within the bounds of the farm, they miss most of those opportunities of improvement which are possessed by those who live in cities or thickly settled towns. They have seldom an opportunity of hearing themselves addressed as a distinct body, and their duties clearly pointed out. Our agricultural papers do this to some extent, but they lack the unction of the living voice, and besides they reach but few of the mass of the farmers. Hence the value of fairs which call the farmers together, not only to exhibit the fruits of their labor and skill, but also to listen to counsels, warning and reproof. If only heeded, they cannot fail, in course of a few years, to elevate the standard of the profession, and make it more nearly what it ought to be. It is indeed strange enough, that while three years at least of special preparation are required of the student of theology, medecine or law, before he can *begin* to work, a common school education, and that often a very ordinary one, is thought amply sufficient for him who is to be but a farmer. Rev. Mr. Clift, of Stonnington, Ct., who delivered the address before the Hampshire Co. Society a few days since, spoke very forcibly on the subject of Scientific Agriculture. He looks to this as the grand means of renovation in some of our old townships, now in an evidently decaying state, through the loss of some of its most enterprising sons and daughters who seek in other pursuits for that position in society to which they feel themselves entitled, but which they despair of obtaining on the old homestead. He argued that if each of these towns contained but two or three farmers of the right stamp—men who honored their calling, and were an honor to it—the aspect of things would very soon be changed, and thrift and enterprise would take the place of stagnation and decay. In furtherance of the subject, he recommended the Agricultural Societies to offer a premium for success in certain departments of husbandry, the privilege of free attendance at a course of agricultural lectures at some one of the institutions now open for the purpose. I thought the suggestion a good one, and worthy of particular consideration.—*Country Gentleman.*

FENCE POSTS.—The *Hereford Times* mentions a farmer who took up a fence after it had been standing fourteen years, and found some of the posts nearly sound, and others rotted off at the bottom. Looking for the cause, he discovered that the posts which had been inverted from the way they grew were solid, and those which had been set as they grew were rotted off. This is certainly an incident worthy of being noted by our farmers.—*Mark Lane Express.*

FARMING IN CALIFORNIA.—The *Alta California*, speaking of farming in that state, says "there is no branch of business considered at a lower ebb in this country at present than farming. It is the general impression that every one engaged in this occupation is driving a ruinous business. It is scarcely reasonable to suppose that it would be otherwise, when it is borne in mind that wheat is not selling at one half the price it brings in New York, while labor on this side of the continent is three or four times as high. The native richness of our soil makes up, however, in some instances, for this discrepancy. In conversation yes-