

WEEDS.—"A lady asked her gardner why the weeds always outgrew and covered up the flowers.

Madam, answered he, the soil is the mother of the weeds, but only step-mother of the flowers."

The seeds of weeds in almost any ground, especially that not cleanly cultivated, are to be counted by millions. Every piece of soil at least to the depth it is usually cultivated has, although invisible to the eye, a quantity of seeds ready to germinate as soon as they are brought into sufficient proximity to the atmosphere. Besides quantity they have another important advantage over seed sown to produce a crop, and that is priority of sowing. Lying dormant in the soil for a longer or shorter period, they are already charged with water, and most likely brought from the bottom to the top, feel at once the vivifying influence of air and warmth, spring into growth as if by magic. Soaking the small kinds of seeds in water a few hours before sowing, would assist them in the battle of life with their numerous enemies, but the true way is never to let a weed grow seed if you can help it. In time this will work a cure.—E. S.

INVENTOR AS WELL AS ARTIST.—The Florence correspondent of the *Newark Daily Advertiser*, under date of Sept. 5th, says:—"Our countryman, Powers, whom Mechanics have never forgiven for his success in Art, is about to appease her with a new tool, which promises to supercede altogether the present *file*, by doing all its work easier, better, and cheaper. This instrument, originally invented to facilitate his operations in sculpture, has now been adopted to all the uses of the file in metals, ivory, bone wood, leathers, &c., and will, moreover, take the place of the greater in the kitchen. The inventor has devised a compact machine for producing it in great numbers with the least possible expense, and when the castings now in progress are completed, it will be brought into use—doubtless to the great profit of all parties."

Carefully preserve the fallen leaves of trees, and procure as many as you can; when rotted into mold, the produce is invaluable.

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF TIMBER.—A seventy-four gun ship will require the oak timber of 75 acres; but will not require more than the timber of 10 acres of larch.—*Transactions of the Highland Society.*

HINTS ON WINTER POTATOES.—If it is desired to have potatoes in the spring as fresh and mealy as in October, they must be preserved by making a layer of potatoes, then of dirt, filling all the crevices, and so alternately until you have secured them all. If you will try this for once you will ever after adopt it as the best method of keeping potatoes fresh and good. The idea of tumbling potatoes into a cellar, where the mercury ranges from 45 to 60 deg., and expect to have them fresh and good, is not a correct one. Potatoes grow in the dirt and are best preserved in it. But carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, are also much better kept by packing them in dirt. The dirt for potatoes and other roots and tubers should be about as moist as it should be to grow them to advantage, and if sandy in its composition, so much the better.

CABBAGE.—Cabbage is best kept by digging a trench in the cellar, and setting them out as if to grow. In this way, small heads will sometimes increase in size, and all will be kept without wilting.

CELERY should be carefully taken from the trenches and packed in boxes with dirt or left out upon the cellar bottom; let the earth be moist, and not too wet or dry. If left out in the trenches during the winter and covered, it often is destroyed by the frost and unfit for use.

STRAWBERRY PLANTS that have been late set should be protected from severe frosts by a slight covering of straw, or litter, or, what is better, a coating of leaves, putting on sticks or pieces of boards to prevent them from being blown off.

CURRENT BUSHES and gooseberries may have a barrow full of chip manure put around each one, and in the spring it can be spread over the ground as a mulching, and to keep down weeds and grass.

THE GOLDEN DROP WHEAT.—This wheat, taken from the State of Ohio to New York, is attracting attention in that State. It is recommended because it is less liable to the midge than other kinds are.