and making them of suitable and uniform width. These improvements cannot be well made without summer fallow. The benefit of the process is not confined to these improvements, but the soil is actually enriched and rendered much more capable of producing good crops, though no manure should be directly applied to the land. The frequent ploughing and harrowing, and exposure of the soil to the influence of the sun and atmosphere, has a very ameliorating effect upon it, however it is produced. The ploughed soil must imbibe the gases that are constantly floating in the air, and thus acquire fertility. It is only when the land is broken up, and kept constantly stirred and turned, that it is capable of attracting the useful gases that float in the atmosphere; and unless the process of fallowing is properly executed, and the soil constantly broken up by the plough, the harrow and grubber, the great improvement by fallowing is not attained.

The land intended for summer fallow should be ploughed or drilled up the previous fall. The drilling answers a good purpose, takes less time, and the land is dry, and early in spring is fit for work. The drills can then be well harrowed, and the land ploughed across. This is the commencement of the process. After the spring work is finished, the fallow should again be worked with the harrow, the grubber or the plough, or all three if required. The small seeds of weeds will probably have sprouted, and then will be the proper time to destroy them by the plough and harrow, and all roots of weeds by hand picking and burning, if their vitality is not destroyed by the sun drying them up while exposed.

Summer fallow affords the farmer full opportunity of cleaning, levelling, draining, liming and manuring the land. If he has manure to apply, it should be with the last ploughing, and then the land to remain over for spring sowing. The land that is summer fallowed in a proper manner, with or without manure, will give a better crop of grain the following year than by any other mode of cultivation. For fall wheat, is the best preparation possible, and we should not hesitate to sow fall wheat, if sown in time, and in a proper manner, in drills, or ploughed in lightly, on summer fallowed land.

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BLUE STEM WHEAT.

Putman Burton, of Gaines, Mich, writes to the *Michigan Farmer*, a letter relative to the excellence of Blue stem wheat, over that of Soule's variety, in which he says:

"In 1850, I sowed ten acres of wheat on a new fallow: five of these acres were sown with six bushels of Soule's wheat and five with six bushels of the Bluestem variety. *About the fifth of the June following, the field* was struck very severely with the frost, which cut the wheat badly, so that I had little hopes of a crop. I found that where the fallow had been thoroughly burned, the frost had done but little injury, and the wheat was good. During the time of the frost the weather was very dry, and kept dry until the 11th of June, when the wheat that was frosted sprung up from the ground thick and heavy, and both kinds headed out very handsomely, but then it was struck with the rust. The Soule's especially suffered badly, as its grain never filled out larger than chess seed. The Bluestem, on the contrary, did not suffer from the rust, but proved tough, and turned up well; yielding when threshed out, about 15 bushels to the acre, although there was a great waste at harvesting, which took place on the 12th and 14th August, 1851. The next year I tried another experiment, from which it was judged that the bluestem wheat was more productive than the Soule's wheat, by some three bushels per acre. In 1854 my new fallow ground was badly frosted, but yet the bluestem yielded from 12 to 15 bushels per acre. The present year my new fallow was killed as dead apparently as it well could be, yet I find that I have from 15 to 20 bushels to the acre of remarkably plump wheat, which I harvestd on the 6th day of August.

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The Auburn (N. Y.) American states that Joel Schoonover, a man *ninety-eight* years of age, was sentenced in that city recently to two years imprisonment in the State Prison, for the crime of arson, he having been convicted of burning no less than three barns belonging to near relatives—children, it is said. He exults in the commission of the deed, which consigns him to the convict's cell.

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FLAX-GROWING IN IRELAND.

The *London Morning Post* thus accounts for the decrease this year in our Irish flax-growing. Besides, the reason here addnced, they should add the enhanced price of wheat:

It appears, from a return just completed, that the quantity of flax grown in Ireland during the present year falls far short of that produced in 1854. At first sight, it would seem difficult to account for this decrease. We have been at war for the last eighteen months with the country from which our foreign supplies of the article in question are chiefly derived, and we would naturally conclude that this circumstance would lead to a material increase of cultivation within our own dominions; but a very small amount of reflection will enable us to explain why the opposite result has taken place.

In anticipation of the war and its effects, *there was a decided extension of flax cultivation* in Ireland both in 1853 and 1854. But our total departure from the rules of maritime warfare hitherto maintained by this country upset the calculations of those enterprising agriculturists who sought to supply the anticipated deficiency. They assumed that, as was always the case in times past, all commercial intercourse must cease between us and our enemies, and that, therefore, we should be compelled to look to other quarters for those commodities with which they had supplied us. The free permission accorded to neutral nations, under the existing orders in Council, to import the produce of Russia, into the United Kingdom, if we may judge from the returns before us, has rendered the *speculation of the Irish farmers an unfortunate* one. The quantity of flax grown in the present year has not only been less than in that by immediate preceding, but less than in any year since 1850. The fair and necessary *inference is, that our imports of Russian flax* have not diminished in spite of the war, and in spite of the blockade of the Baltic ports. By virtue of the orders in Council issued at the outbreak of hostilities, it finds its way to our markets, through the Prussian territory, with as great regularity, and in as great abundance, as in time of peace. And such being the case, we need not be surprised to find that whereas in 1851 there were planted in Ireland 151,403 acres of flax, in the present year the quantity has fallen to 97,192.

CULTIVATION OF THE BASKET WILLOW.

Mr. M. D. Everest of Macedonia Depot, Ohio, writes the *Ohio Farmer* under date Sept. 15, as follows:

Last April, I bought of Geo. J. Colby, of Vt., fifty thousand Willow Cuttings. We got through sticking them the 14th of May, and now many of the sprouts are six feet long, and all will average about four feet. They will pay well this year, if there should be sale for cuttings. My ground was only plowed, for the wet weather commenced before I knew that I should obtain any cuttings, but we were particular to put the cuttings clear through the sod, into the soil below and only a few of them failed to grow. The best time to prepare the ground is in the fall, for most of the land, that is suitable for the willow, is too wet to till in the spring, early enough. It takes about three days' work to stick an acre with the cuttings; it should be done early in the spring, before other work commences, so that it can be done well without costing too much per acre.

From what I know of the willow trade, and the cultivation of the willow, there is no doubt, in my mind, that farmers will find it very lucrative to grow them. Most every farmer has some land on which nothing but trash grows, which is just the land for the willow.

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AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE BY HORACE GREELEY.

Paris, *Tuesday, July* 17, 1855.

A Yankee here lately said to a Frenchman: "I am amazed that your people continue to cut grass with that short, clumsy, wide-bladed, straight-handled, eleventh-century implement, when we in America have *scythes scarcely dearer which cut twice as fast.*" "Why, you see," responded Monsieur, "while you have *less* labour than you need, we have far *more*; so that while it is your study to economize human exertion, it is ours to find employment for our surplus. We have probably twice as many labourers as we need." "Then," persisted Jonathan, "your true course would seem to be to break your scythes in two and work them at half their present length, thus adjusting your implements to your work, since you are confessedly *unable to find work enough for your laborers*, even with the wretched implements you now use." Monsieur did not see the matter in this light, and the stream of conversation flowed into another channel.

Now while *otherwise sensible* Frenchmen actually believe that labour is here in excess, there is at this hour a pressing need of all the surplus labor of France for the next forty years to be absorbed in the proper drainage of her soil alone. For want of this, whole districts are submerged or turned to marsh for three or four months between November and April, obstructing labour, loading the air with unwholesome humidity, and subjecting the peasantry to fevers and other diseases. Thorough draining alone would immensely increase the annual product, the wealth, *and ultimately*, by promoting health and diffusing plenty, even the population of France.

So with regard to Plowing. It is not quite so bad here as in Spain, where a friend this *season saw peasants plowing with an implement* composed of two clumsy sticks of wood, one of which (the horizontal) worked its way through the earth after the manner of a hog's snout, while the other, inserted in the former