

ting, laying down the tiles and covering, about 1s. 4d. the rood or perch. Where small stones are to be had conveniently, they will drain as well or better than tiles of any make, though perhaps, there may not be any great saving of expense. Even when tiles are put down, covering them over with small stones is an excellent plan. We give insertion in this number to an article on draining, with the branches of the Scotch fir, which has been found to answer extremely well. In this country, where there is such abundance of trees of the fir tribe, draining might be accomplished very cheaply—filling the drains with the branches of hemlock, and other fir trees. We have no doubt, whatsoever, that this mode of draining would answer well, if carefully executed, and the branches laid in and covered, while in a perfectly green state, and cut at the proper season, when they have all the sap in them. The drains should be cut something larger than those for tiles, and the branches should be packed closely into them, and covered over with earth. It is difficult to obtain tiles in Canada, but these branches are readily obtained in almost every situation. There can be no doubt that draining should precede any attempt at improving our agriculture by manuring or better cultivation. Draining sufficiently produces more improvement in arable lands, than any other means in our power to employ. We forgot to mention that the machine made use of at the manufactory at Knockroghery, is “Scraggs’ Improved Machine.” Deep draining is considered much the most effectual, and would answer best in this country. Good farmers in England consider that indifferently drained clay land is ruinous to cultivate, that if drained would pay a fair rent and profit, and we believe it is the same case here. Some persons imagine if we drain our lands here as in England, they will become too dry to produce good crops; but this is a great mistake. When land retains water, the surface becomes very hard and baked by the sun, and renders it impossible for plants to thrive in it. The same land, if drained, would never

become so hard, the showers of rain would pass freely through it, and the dew would also have a most beneficial influence upon the crop; showers of rain upon hard, undrained land, do not produce much benefit; it escapes in the cracks in the soil, or remains upon the surface until again dried up by a few hours’ hot sun. We have abundant opportunity of seeing the effects of want of draining on crops; some of the most fertile spots in a field are often rendered useless by retaining water. Even where no water appears near the surface, the crop is poor and stunted from the roots of the plants coming in contact with too much moisture in the soil.

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We give insertion to a speech of Mr. Meechi of Triptree Hall, Essex, that is entitled to attention. This gentleman has realized an ample fortune by business, and can afford both money and time to test the merits of any plan or experiment he may think desirable. It is to such men as Mr. Meechi, England is indebted for her great improvements in Agriculture, and we may also benefit from reading of his successful practice of this excellent system. This is one of the advantages of “book-farming,” for if we were deprived of it, we could know nothing of Mr. Meechi’s practice or the results obtained from it. Gentlemen who visited this farm lately, report:—“In a field of wheat, which was drained 14 feet apart, though drained four years since, the wheat over the drains, to the width of about four feet, looks stronger and better than on the intermediate spaces between that and the next drain. This is so decisive, that a person standing half a mile distant could, by the fine appearance of the wheat over each drain, point out any drain in the field.” Such are the effects of draining, and similar effects would result from sufficient draining in this country, if the experiment was made, and the work properly executed.