

schools. These are of two kinds, "model agricultural schools," and "ordinary agricultural schools." The pupils of the latter are mostly young. Such of them as excel are usually advanced to the higher class of schools, where many of them are fitted to become teachers. One of these higher schools—"the model agricultural schools"—is at Glasnevin, two or three miles from Dublin. Through the politeness of the Right Hon. ALEXANDER McDONALD, Superintendent of the national schools for Ireland, I was introduced to the gentlemen in charge of the Glasnevin school—DR. THOMAS KIRKPATRICK, Inspector of Agricultural Education, and MR. DONAGHY, head teacher and farmer. A more hearty reception than they gave me could hardly be imagined. I was shown the farm, the stock, the crops of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, rye, grass, clover &c.; was taken through the buildings; had every thing explained to me; saw the young men at their work in the fields. Such crops I have seldom seen. What is more than great crops, I learn that they were obtained without extravagant expense, that here was farming with a profit, such as might safely be imitated by all. The young men, nearly one hundred, were engaged at that hour on various parts of the farm, and in various employments. On speaking of their neat, cleanly and even gentlemanly appearance, although at their work, and of course dressed for that purpose, I was told that they should be called in, that I might see them in their school room and hear them examined. Not consenting that the work of the fields should be interrupted for my sake, I was told that if I would come and dine at Dr. KIRKPATRICK'S the next day at 5 o'clock, they would then be at their studies, and that in the evening they should be examined. I did so. The examination took place at 7 o'clock and lasted till nine. The young men I should think were from 18 to 22 years of age. They were examined in Geography, Arithmetic, English Grammar and the Elements of Agriculture. In the general branches of a school education they acquitted themselves respectably. In every thing pertaining to agriculture, involving a great many important, practical and not a few scientific questions, their answers were exceedingly prompt and accurate. On being requested to make some remarks upon the exercises, I found no difficulty, as one sometimes does, on such occasions, in saying what I thought might please and yet be true. That Institution, I am persuaded is doing much, and at no extravagant expense, for the elevation of Ireland. When I think that it is but one of many agricultural schools in that Island, and that nearly five thousand national schools are now in operation there, some of which I visited and found them well conducted, I cannot but hope well for Ireland. On leaving Glasnevin, I could not but think that, if the kindness I had there experienced was a fair sample of Irish hos-

pitality, as I subsequently learned it was, then I liked *Irish hospitality*.

I cannot close without mentioning a somewhat common mode of giving young men a knowledge of practical agriculture. It is that of putting a young man with some distinguished farmer, to be trained practically to the business. Mr. A., for instance, may have the reputation of being a thorough-going, substantial farmer, of excellent moral character. Mr. B., a London merchant, it may be, or a head Manchester manufacturer, or perhaps a titled nobleman, or a rich commoner, who will not have the trouble to cultivate his own land, says to Mr. A., take my son into your family; give him a good horse for his own use; let him take care of the horse himself; let him work as much as he pleases; tell him all about horses, beasts, sheep and swine; about the various crops, how to grow them, their use &c., whatever pertains to practical farming; and I will pay your price. Agricultural knowledge is considered so important in England, rather I might say, it is so much in fashion, that a young gentleman is hardly considered as well educated without it. The more common price paid in such cases as the above is £100 (400 dollars) a year. I became acquainted with several farmers, who have young gentlemen at that price; and one farmer in Oxfordshire told me that he could have any number at the same price, all the time, if he chose, but that he did not care to have the trouble of them. J. A. NAS.

CORN-CULTURE.

The following mode of cultivating corn, by a correspondent of the *Dollar Newspaper*, will afford some good suggestions to our readers, and is more particularly applicable to ground which is encumbered with grass or perennial weeds. For clean, meadow, well cultivated ground, kept clean by a good system of rotation, a good cultivator and a flat surface to the soil, is decidedly best; but will not apply to *foul* land:—

Some time last summer, I wrote a reply to a correspondent from Virginia, informing him how wire grass (alias quack grass) might be killed by summer fallowing. I also stated that I would at some future time, tell him how to kill it, and at the same time raise a crop of corn on the land.

Plough your ground just before you want to plant, and harrow well. Mark out with stakes and a sled with three runners. The driver standing directly over some object selected before starting, and thus strike "bee lines." The distance of the runners apart must be regulated by the latitude and the strength of the land. The ground being laid out in perfectly straight rows, plant immediately. When the corn is up, so that the rows can be distinctly seen, take in the field a common sized plough and a good tractable horse. The plough must not be one of

those things called, in modern phraseology, "*corn ploughs*," but a good, substantial plough which will turn a furrow well, and which is also pretty wide on the bottom. Plough from the hill, and plough close. Some farmers who plough from the hill, are contented to plough a little furrow eight or ten inches from the row, and going back plough so near the centre as to turn part of this furrow back again. This will not do; the plough must run close, close as possible, without ploughing up the corn; it does the corn much good, letting the sun in around the roots and warming the ground. If there is danger of undermining the hill too much, the land-side may be turned up a little, so as to make the furrow a little shallow on that side, but be sure that your shire is sharp, so that it slips over nothing, and your plough bright so that it turns the furrow well. Plough in this way, and then in a few days cross it just the same. If it is well done there will not be more than from six to eight inches square left in the hill; all the rest of the land is fresh. It may now be hoed, but it must be hoed from the hill. With a light shaving cut of the hoe, and a little dexterity, the hill may be clean of everything, except the corn. Then plough to the hills as is usually done the two last times, being sure to have the furrows not only meet, but lap a little, and by that time the corn will be large enough to shade the ground. By ploughing at a four times, (twice in a row each time,) allowing proper intervals for the quack to just get a start, then meeting it and turning it under again, it will, at the end of the season, be almost as effectually killed as by summer fallowing. The only difference is, there will sometimes be a little left in the hill; but I have seen the grass quite subdued by pursuing this course two or three years.

This is the cheapest and only good way to tend corn. A few years ago, a brother of the writer had been using the cultivator in a piece of corn which was quite foul with wild morning-glory. He had cultivated a number of rows when my father came on a visit to him, and of course, went to see his corn. He strongly protested against the use of the cultivator, and urged my brother to introduce the plough, for the purpose of showing him the difference of the efficacy of the two implements. The trial was made, and the result was very decidedly for the plough. The next day a little rain fell, and soon the cultivated rows were hardly to be distinguished from those which had nothing done to them, while the ploughed rows were clear and fresh for a long time. This is not all. I did not place reliance on a single isolated fact, but having had frequent opportunities of comparing, I have uniformly found the result the same.