

naturally prevail. The Burdock is a biennial plant, with a long thick root, which was formerly much used in medicine. In the case of a piece of ground occupied in the main by this weed, a good plan would be to cut off the stems early in the summer, and plough deeply so as to break up the roots, which can readily be brought to the surface and destroyed by a cultivator. By giving the land a clear and deep summer fallow, this pest may readily be got rid of. In case single plants should afterwards spring up, they can, when the ground is moist, be pulled up by the root, in a similar manner to docks and other deep-rooted plants. If the Burdock is not allowed to flower, and its stem cut off near the surface, it must soon perish.

The principal thing a farmer has to do, after getting his land into a clean state of cultivation, is to keep it in that condition,—a matter not very easily accomplished in practice, especially in this climate where annual weeds are so numerous, prolific, and of so remarkably quick growth. For ordinary purposes weeds may be divided into two classes,—those propagated by seed, and others by the root. The former are called annuals or biennials; the latter perennials. The annuals are often found in practice by no means so readily extirpated as the fact of their lasting only one year might lead us to suppose. The seeds of this class are so numerous, and distributed in various ways by different means, that the most vigilant attention of the farmer is constantly required. Winds and birds are the chief agents in their distribution. Hence, the necessity of a whole neighborhood being vigilant in regard to this important matter. One slovenly farmer will in time stock with weeds the clean and well cultivated fields of his neighbors. Perhaps, after all, the most prolific source of weeds is to be sought in the grain and grasses that are usually sown, and the barn manure with which we dress our fields. In this country (and the same remark will equally apply to several countries in Europe), a clear sample of seed grain or grasses is seldom to be procured. Farmers sow the seeds of weeds more or less with every crop they cultivate;—no wonder, then, that we hear such constant complaints of the difficulty and expense of keeping land even tolerably clean. Nothing will effectually accomplish that most desirable object but the employment of *pure seed*, especially if sown in drills, and thoroughly fermented manure.

Professor Buckman, of England, has recently made some careful investigations of these matters, and we will state a few of the results obtained, as they cannot fail, we think, to interest our readers. The Professor found “in a pint of clover-seed 7,600 weed-seeds; in a pint of cow-grass seed, 12,600; in broad clover, 39,440; and two pints of Dutch clover yielded severally 25,560 and 70,400 weed-seeds. Supposing these samples to be sown, here were seed enough to stock the land with weeds for many years. The farmer often goes to the cheapest market and gets weeds for corn, and so pays exceedingly dear for what he considers a cheap bargain.” If this be true, in relation to English farming, how much more so must it be to American, when it is well known much