

owing to the precarious nature of the crop, and the consequence has been that, after a time, the wheat culture could be safely resumed.

So much for remedies under our first head.

*Secondly*, After the egg has been deposited, it does not appear that we can do anything in the way of prevention. Cold rain storms, however, occurring at this stage, appear often to kill large numbers of the insects. If it should appear evident that the crop is to be a failure, it is economy to cut down the grain, and dry it as fodder, as in this way it will serve a useful purpose and the insects will be destroyed. It sometimes happens that only the breadth of a few ridges at the margin of a field is seriously affected. In this case that portion may be cut, and the rest allowed to remain.

*Thirdly*, If we can secure the crop before the insects have fallen out in autumn, we may destroy them in the barn. It has been ascertained that if kept dry the insect in this stage perishes; it must bury itself in moist ground in order that it may survive the winter and come forth in the perfect state. It is only necessary, therefore, in threshing the grain to set aside the chaff and dust in a dry place to destroy the insects. A much more effectual course is, however, to burn this refuse, which will contain all the larvæ that have been taken in with the wheat. We have known bushels of the larvæ to be collected and destroyed in this way; and in England, where the insect was known long before it appeared in America, this course has been successfully adopted. If, however, the farmer wishes to do all in his power to increase and multiply the midge, he will sweep out all the refuse of his threshing into his barn-yard, where the little foe will quickly bury itself, and be ready in summer to wing its way to every part of the farm.

In seasons when the fly appears early, and in any season if the grain be allowed to stand till ~~dead~~ ripe, large numbers of the midges will have fallen to the ground before reaping. These of course will be ready to come forth in the spring. The farmer should, however, endeavour, if possible, to reap before the grubs have left the ear, so that he may secure them in the barn; and it is well known that such early reaping is more advantageous in other respects, as the grain reaped immediately after the top of the straw has turned yellow, yields more

flour than that which is left to ripen completely. When it is impossible to do this, and the farmer knows that large quantities of grubs have fallen, he should, if possible, avoid sowing wheat in or near the same ground in the following year. The midge does not usually fly far, especially against the wind, and hence, when farmers are careless and sweep the young midges into their barn-yards, it will be observed that in the succeeding year the wheat nearest to the barn is that most seriously affected. In like manner where there is no system of rotation, and wheat is raised for several years on the same ground, the increase of the midge is greatly favoured. Where this kind of farming is followed, it is probable that fall ploughing must have a considerable effect in dislodging the larvæ and exposing them to be killed by frost.

*Fourthly*, The last remark under our third head says nearly all that occurs to us in relation to the under-ground stage of the midge. It certainly buries itself to the depth of several inches, and can withstand our severest winters; but it is not unlikely that in some bare and cold winters large numbers of these and other enemies of the husbandman are frozen and killed.

The farmer will observe in the above list of remedies many that are quite practicable, but perhaps none that is completely effectual, but by adopting one or more as may be convenient; and especially by destroying all the larvæ that he can find when threshing and cleaning his grain, he will do much to secure himself from this plague. We would advise every intelligent farmer, next autumn, to take up and examine carefully the dust and chaff of his thrashing floor, and if he should find any of the little yellow larvæ of the midge, to take effectual measures to destroy every one of them, since every female midge may cost him in the succeeding harvest an ear of wheat.

WHAT CROPS CAN I RAISE, AND WHAT CAN I MARKET, TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE?—This is a question which every cultivator of the soil, whether on a large or a small scale, might put to himself, every year, with the probability of its leading him to see what otherwise might have escaped his observation in regard to his best course in raising and marketing of crops. Two men, the one on a light sandy farm and the other on a farm the soil of which is a heavy clay, cannot raise the same crops with equal propriety and advantage. Two farmers, the one of whom is near a city or village where manure can be had for a trifle and the other so situated that he can avail himself only of what helps to

fertility he can derive from his home resources, cannot farm their lands in the same way, nor raise the same crops with equal advantage. Two farmers, the one near to a Railroad depot, and the other remote from one, cannot raise potatoes, and perhaps other heavy crops, with equal advantage. A farmer in a district of country where every bushel of corn he raises costs him nearly a dollar, had better leave commencing to districts in which corn can be raised at twenty cents a bushel or less, and get his corn by raising stock, wool, hay or something else which he can raise to better advantage than corn, and procuring his supplies by selling the one and buying the other. On a farm or in a district where not more than six to ten bushels of wheat can be had from an acre, it would be folly to supply what a farmer needs for his own family from his own land, while he could raise some other crops which, when marketed, would yield him two three, or five times as much money as his supply of wheat or flour would cost him.

There are instances of classes of cases in which the results will be very different according as an adaptation of crops to the soil, the market, and other circumstances, is considered and determined with good judgment, or otherwise. Instances might easily be multiplied, for many circumstances, such as peace or war, a plentiful or a scanty crop during the preceding year, the establishment of a new market by a new railroad, a new manufactory, or some other new thing in a neighborhood, will have an influence in determining what crops can be raised with the greatest profit. A man of foresight and good judgment will take many such circumstances into account in fixing his plans for a year, and will thereby secure advantages and profits, which the man who goes on in a certain routine without thought will very surely miss. But then such men have always just such luck!—A. R. A.

### New Plants,

#### Recommended for Farm culture.

From a notice of the forthcoming volume of the Report of the Washington Patent Office, contained in the *New York Tribune*, we extract the following statements respecting useful plants there recommended for cultivation in the Northern and Middle States. Many of these plants deserve trial in Lower Canada, and we suppose that Agricultural Societies could readily obtain supplies of their seeds or cuttings, from cultivators in the United States, or through the Agricultural Board, which could open communication for the purpose with the Patent Office. One of these plants, the Chinese sugar cane, has, as stated in last number, been cultivated with satisfactory results by Mr. Shepherd of this city.

One of the few sensible acts of the agricultural branch of the Patent Office was the appointment of D. J. Browne, a gentleman of good education, speaking several languages, and a great traveler, and of extensive information upon agricultural subjects. To him the country is greatly indebted for his