

friend Mr. Choat, who has introduced into this vicinity one of the self-raking machines made in Brockport, N. Y. State, and also to Mr. Rapalje, who has had manufactured in Port Hope this season, a number of the Burrall Machines, that they should bring them to my place and let them work together. I had also one of Hussey's Machines which has now cut its fourth harvest, and which has not cost me altogether more than five or six dollars in repairs, and that only in simple wear and tear, and which is now as good as ever.

Four machines were in the field, viz., Mr. Choat's self-raker, two of the Burrall machines, and my own Hussey machine, above mentioned. The afternoon of Saturday, the 13th inst., was, as you have not forgotten—hot—but that hardly begins to express the actual feeling of 'Roasting, Broiling, and Stewing,' we had to experience; yet notwithstanding, a very respectable assemblage of not only the *Bone and Sinew*, the practical farmers of Hope and Hamilton Townships, but also many of the Merchants and Mechanics of Port Hope, as well as several of the Contractors and Engineers of the Port Hope and Lindsay Railroad attended; and all, as far as I am at present posted up, expressed themselves not only gratified, but delighted with the performance.

Of course, as I am to be a judge, as I have already mentioned, it would be quite invidious to mention my own opinion: and really it would puzzle the best judges to decide upon the mere shade of difference between the machines, where all worked so well; but I can say (and the manufacturers themselves will not be sorry) that many of our *stiff* Farmers, who have been hitherto sceptical about reaping Machines, were that day converted, and the result will be that every farmer who has got two-thirds of his stumps out of the ground, will go for a reaper.

There cannot be on the broad surface of our globe a country where labour saving machines can be of more benefit than to ourselves; and particularly as British Capitalists have turned their attention this way at last, and coaxed our laborers to work on railroads instead of farms, and that is what is now arousing the more lethargic of our farmers to turn their attention to things of this sort.

Yours truly,

JOHN WADE.

GRAPE VINES.—Loosen the earth about their roots and give them manures. Swamp muck which has been decomposed by the salt and lime mixture answers a good purpose. Whole bones buried near the roots of grape vines will soon be appropriated, and, during the summer rest, a little potash water will hurry up their action.—*Working Farmer.*

REMARKS ON THE POTATO PLANT.

BY DAVID FERGUSON, ESQ.

The following very interesting paper, by David Ferguson, Esq., was read by the Rev. Mr. Porter, before the Kilkenny Literary and Scientific Institution. Prefixed to it being an engagement by Mr. Ferguson to pay £500 promised in the paper, when the Council of the Literary and Scientific Institution of Kilkenny decide it fairly gained. The Provincial Bank of Ireland, Kilkenny, is named as reference. The seed mentioned in the paper may be obtained from Robert Molyneux, Esq., John's Bridge, and from Mr. William Bryan, Scotch House, Kilkenny:—

"The potato plant is only an annual, empowered by God with two modes of reproduction. The one, like the oak tree, lives only for years; the other, like the acorn, liveth for ever. Both reproductions are deposits from the plant, different in chemical properties; '*live and die*' independent of each other, with the plant providing for, but independent of, both.

"Here (exhibiting a potato stalk) is the plant. This stalk, with its small fibres, is the annual. These eight apples upon the top possess each from three hundred to three hundred and twenty seeds, each seed has the germ of a plant with seed lobes, which perform the same office to the germ that the yolk of an egg does to the germ of a bird, supplying it with nutriment until all its parts are perfected by germination to supply itself.

"Hence the seed in the potato apple is, like the acorn of the oak, the seed in the apple of the tree, or the egg of a hen. These eight potatoes at the bottom of the stalk possess each a quantity of eyes; each eye possesses the same property for a time that the seed or egg of a hen does; but the potato, like the tree and hen, becomes aged and past bearing; the oak lives after it ceases to bear, as do also the apple tree and the hen, and so also does the potato. But the oak, the apple tree, and the hen die from age, and why not also the potato? Has nature made it an exception?

"Besides, like the oak, the apple tree, and hen, the potato has a graduated scale of ascending and descending life. Here (exhibiting a potato stalk) is a plant grown direct from the seed. Observe, the potatoes are small, like marbles. This stalk blossomed, but had not strength to form an apple. Here (exhibiting a large stalk) is another which is one year older. Observe the difference in the bulk of the tubers which it produced. They may be compared to a small