

time, it must not be forgotten that the measure of his success depends very much on his own persevering efforts, directed by judgment and skill. "If," says the author of the *Dictionary of the Farm*, "the farmer selects the best seed, chooses the proper season for sowing them, and has them carefully distributed and properly covered with earth, as their nature requires for the most perfect germination; and thus also protects them from the voracity of birds and insects, he will have a much greater prospect of success, under all circumstances, than if he were careless and negligent." The most common mode of sowing in this country is scattering the seed broadcast over the ploughed surface of the soil. By this process there is no certainty of the seed being uniformly covered.

Experience teaches that harrowing is only an imperfect method for effecting this object. The harrow buries some seeds too deeply, others not sufficiently deep, and a considerable proportion not at all. To ensure a full crop, therefore, the farmer is obliged to scatter an additional bushel or more per acre, than would be necessary, were a machine employed. It will be obvious, on a little reflection and calculation, that the saving of grain alone, in the course of a few years, by the use of a drill, would warrant its adoption on every farm. Such machines not only deliver the required proportion of seed with regularity, but deposit it at a proper depth beneath the surface. And as the plants appear in regular rows, weeds or thistles may be destroyed with facility, and the crop is thereby allowed to monopolize the entire nourishment of the soil. The air is allowed free circulation between the rows, and a stronger and healthier plant, and consequently a heavier crop is produced. There is every perceptible difference in the growth of drilled and broadcast wheat. The ears of the machine-sown grain, are larger, and the plants more uniform in size and height than those sown by hand. The superior vigor once apparent to any careful observer. The cost of a drill is, no doubt, pretty con-

siderable. This circumstance will unquestionably prevent its rapid general adoption; but the advantage to be derived from the use of the implement, some of which we have briefly noticed in this article, would, in cases where the requisite amount could be prudently appropriated for the purpose, more than compensate for the investment.

NEATNESS ABOUT THE FARM.

It does not cost as much to be neat and orderly as it does to be slovenly, and is much better to be neat, and is more agreeable and pleasant. In passing a farm, it is easy enough to tell whether its owner is a neat farmer or not. If the door-yard is strewn with old boxes, barrels, and farm implements, broken and otherwise, and the gate broken or minus, broken apple-trees lying in the orchard or thrown in the road, which is worse.

Are the fences straight from one point to another, or do they wind serpentine like, using up twice or thrice as much land as is necessary, and nearly hid with briars and young trees? Are the roads filled with fragments of stumps, stones, or logs, brush, and every other kind of unmentionable rubbish that could be much better and more profitably disposed of? These are marks of idleness; carelessness, and often drunkenness.

Again a neat farmer has his rows of corn, potatoes, &c., straight across a field; they are easier made so; are easier and cheaper worked, and there are many more hills to an acre; and how much better they look!

Many farmers think they cannot find time to keep things neat and tidy; that the general farm-work is all they can manage. This might be so if these habits of slovenliness did not hinder and make three times more work, than it would take to keep them straight. If on some day after a rain, when the land is too wet to work, any one will go straightening up things a little, he will be surprised to see how many of these odd jobs can be done in a few hours, and what a difference can be made in the general appearance of things, and many little things can be fixed in ten minutes which if neglected may cost a dollar to repair.

A better way is to set apart half a day in every week—say Saturday afternoon—for this work, and in a few weeks it will be found to be the most profitable half-day's work in the week. A minute of many little things can be kept during the week, and on Saturday afternoon the list cleared up.

A little care about building fences straight will add a few more rows of corn or rods of grain to the crop on both sides of the fence. I have made it a rule never to put anything in the road. Brush or stumps I burn. Stones I pile out of the way or where they will be needed. I am sorry and almost ashamed to say that many farmers make the road a general receptacle of rubbish of every kind. Instead of having clean and green roads, they are nearly blockaded. I was surprised a few weeks since, while travelling a circuit of a few miles, to see the vast amount and variety of these obstructions. Runaways often occur by teams getting frightened at objects in the road that have no business there, and no true gentleman would ever put them there.