

in a perfectly clean tilth, when extended over a long period of years. If such should be the case, a very cheap and reliable plan of cleaning the land may be found in the use of a paring plough, to be employed on the stubble, directly after wheat harvest. Paring ploughs for working stubble land may be made upon a very simple scale. They should turn a furrow eighteen inches wide, by three inches in depth; a less depth than this would be preferable, provided that it could be turned by the plough. Paring land in this manner, in the month of August, would, in nine cases out of ten, be an effectual means of destroying every species of weeds, especially when taken in connection with the practice of horse-hoeing crops. After being exposed in this manner for a few weeks to the action of the sun and air, the ground may be worked once or twice with a steel tooth cultivator, and a short time before the setting in of winter it may be ploughed with a deep winter furrow.

The foregoing system of growing wheat may be profitably practiced on some soils. It is not here given with a view of recommending it for general practice. Every cultivator must judge of its adaptation to his soil for himself. The principles and deductions laid down will be found strictly correct, when carried out on soils suited to the system. Every man must learn to think and act for himself; but in acting, he should make it a point to thoroughly understand the principles upon which the motive for action are grounded. With such a knowledge of his business, and by adopting the most enlightened practice, he will run but little risk in anticipating a favourable issue.

Facts and Extracts compiled from the American Agricultural Press.

There are now published in the United States upwards of twenty Agricultural papers and magazines, the whole of which we expect regularly to receive, either weekly or monthly, as they are severally published, before the close of the first volume of the *Farmer and Mechanic*. We are already in the receipt of half that number; and, in perusing them, much that is really valuable and interesting

to Agriculturists is obliged to be passed over without comment, for want of space in our columns to insert it. To make up, in some measure, for this, we purpose to glean from such sources of information as we may have at hand as many interesting facts as possible, and shall compress them into the shortest possible space, without destroying the sense and harmony of the author's views and deductions. In doing this, the Editor will occasionally intersperse remarks of his own, for the purpose of more clearly explaining the matter, when it is required, and for adapting it to the climate and other circumstances of this country.

DRAINING LANDS.

In the *Genesee Farmer*, for December, the Editor makes some remarks upon draining land, which should be understood by every cultivator of the soil. The views embodied in his article were obtained from an interesting discussion that took place in Buffalo, after the conclusion of the lecture by Professor Norton, of Yale College.

"The objects of draining are two-fold; first, to get rid of any excess of water on the ground, as it falls on the surface of the earth; and, secondly, to remove all excess in the subsoil. Deep tillage doubles the capacity of the soil to hold the water that falls in showers, without injury; and, to that extent, prevents its washing. It is characteristic of poor, thin, hard soils, that a large share of the water which falls upon them in the course of a year runs off immediately. It is indicative of a good soil if it will imbibe and retain much water, diffused so deeply as not to have the surface nor subsoil too wet for cultivated plants. Whatever of the organic and inorganic elements of plants the earth contains in a soluble condition, this water will dissolve. The free ascent of water through the roots and stems of vegetables to their leaves, carrying with it much nutriment, will cause these plants to grow rapidly. To supply a crop with all the water it needs, in a dry season, the earth to a considerable depth must possess a peculiar mechanical texture, adapted to the holding of this liquid in a harmless diffusion. The ag-