

reconcile. In the application of lime, the first great and indispensable end to secure, is its complete incorporation with the soil. To effect this thoroughly, the lime must be in a state of very fine division, as chemical action takes place only slightly and imperfectly, where the particles of bodies are not as minute as it is possible to make them. The manner of making the application is therefore of great importance. Our mode of doing it is, it has appeared to us, somewhat too careless and inartificial. The throwing it from a cart, very often, as we have seen, in a high wind, is a mode of distribution far too slovenly for any one who wishes to attain the character of a neat and careful farmer. It must in this manner be far too unequally distributed. The throwing it in heaps, and then spreading, is no doubt far preferable; it may take more time and labour, but does it not secure the object every farmer has in view? But what would be better than either of these common modes of spreading this manure, would be some machine on wheels, or attached to a cart, that would dust our fields as it moved along: an invention of this kind would distribute it equally over the ground and tell the farmer the exact quantity that he had used. It seems a prevailing opinion in parts of Europe, that lime is of much more use when thrown on a fallow, than when put upon the sod; and we have no doubt that it effects one important object, better in this way than in the other—that of extirpating weeds. A good deal of labour is necessary in this mode of cultivation; after the land is fallowed and harrowed, and the lime spread, it is then harrowed again, and then plowed with a very shallow furrow, to bury the manure.

A. L. ELWYN.

Feb. 2nd, 1845.

We are indebted to the *American Agriculturist* for the drawing of a Massachusetts Barn, which will be found in this number of the *Cultivator*. As many of our readers are partial to pictures, we have determined to treat them with such as would be useful as well as ornamental. The style of barn here represented is highly spoken of in those parts of Canada where they have been built, and so far as we are able to judge of their merits, we should consider them the best and most convenient barn in use.

PERTH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Cattle Show of this Society will be held in Perth on Tues-

day the 6th October next. The premium list appears liberal and embraces almost every article of agricultural produce and domestic manufactures. A part of the premiums to be awarded will consist of agricultural books. For the information of the committee we would mention, that we afford the second and third vols. (old series) neatly bound in one; and volume 1. (new series,) for the very trifling sum of 3s. 9d. each, when ordered by Agricultural Societies, or by persons in trade. Some societies have not yet adopted the plan of furnishing their members with a copy of an agricultural periodical; probably such would find that they would greatly promote agricultural improvement, by encouraging the circulation of such works.

POTATO PICKER.—A subscriber requests information respecting the potato picker that we noticed in the last volume of the *Cultivator*. In reply to his enquiry we would state, that the machine we ordered never reached us, but we understood that it arrived safely at Montreal. It possibly may have journeyed into the United States; this opinion is formed from the fact that a similar machine has lately made its appearance in two or three sections of that country. Those who require further information in relation to the potato picker, had better write to Mr. Watts, Frederickton, N. B., who would no doubt favor them with any particulars.

New Method of Clearing Feathers from their Animal Oil.—Take for every gallon of clear water, a pound of quick lime; mix them well together, and when undissolved lime is precipitated in fine powder, pour off the clear lime water for use at the time it is wanted. Put the feathers to be cleaned in another tub, and add to them a sufficient quantity of the clear lime water to cover the feathers about 3 inches; when well immersed and stirred therein, the feathers when thoroughly moistened will sink down—and should remain in the lime water three or four days; after which the foul liquor should be separated from the feathers by laying them on a sieve. The feathers should be afterwards well washed in clean water and dried on nets, the meshes being about the same fineness as those of cabbage nets. The feathers must, from time to time, be shaken on the nets; and as they dry they will fall through the meshes and are to be collected for use. The admission of air will be serviceable in the drying, and the whole process may be completed in about three weeks. The feathers, after being thus prepared, will want nothing more than beating for use, either for beds, bolsters, pillows, or cushions.—*Am. Farmer.*