

green healthy appearance, although the wheat appeared thinner on the ground than we had been accustomed to, but Mr. Mechi believes that he is more likely to have an abundant crop than if it were thicker. One land in a large field of wheat being sown with nearly the usual quantity of seed, he asked one of our party, who was a good judge of crops, to select from the field this land so sown. The gentleman, after considerable care, pointed out the land in question, when Mr. Mechi laughingly retorted that he had been enabled to discern it by the assistance of the "yellow tinge" in the lower blades.

Mr. Mechi informs us that seven quarters of wheat per acre were produced last season from a field on which he has now a good crop of peas growing, and was drained twelve feet apart, and two feet eight inches deep. Upon the rising land adjoining is a field of wheat, which was drained fourteen feet apart, and two feet six inches deep, and although it is now some three or four years since this was done, the wheat over the drains to the width of about four feet looks stronger and better than on the intermediate places between them and the next drain. This is so decisive that a person standing half a mile distant could, by the fine appearance of the wheat over each drain, point out every drain in the field. In another field of wheat adjoining, the land has been drained forty feet apart and four feet deep. The colour of the wheat over each of the deep drains was by no means so good or distinct as in that previously examined. One field, part of which is now growing a fine crop of beans, and upon the other part an excellent crop of clover, was drained twelve feet apart and two feet eight inches deep. The land now sown with mangold wurtzel is drained five feet deep and thirty feet apart, but the plants not being more than an inch above the ground, we could make little observation with regard to the effects of deep drainage there. In another field there is a fine crop of winter barley in full ear, about four feet six inches high. The barley was sown in September. Another portion of the same field was sown with rye, which has been lately cut for stall feeding. On what is called the "bog-field" there is now growing a second crop of wheat in succession. Formerly some portion of this field was a complete quagmire, but by judiciously putting in a large drain, 10 feet in depth, the land was laid dry. From this drain flows a large

stream of beautiful water, which supplies the house and premises. In a field adjoining there is one of the heaviest crops of rye and tares we ever beheld. This field was drained about four years since, fourteen feet apart and two feet deep, and, notwithstanding Mr. Mechi's celebrated advocacy for very deep drains, he has had the great good sense not yet to alter the drainage on this field as well as some others, and the result is, that at present he has a sufficient quantity of land drained upon the different systems fairly to test their respective merits, provided he suffers them to remain undisturbed for two or three years longer. As for the first and perhaps the second year, deep drainage would doubtless have the advantage; but judging from the crop of land, and recollecting the long-continued rains of last winter, we formed by no means that high opinion of deep draining at great width, of, say forty or fifty feet apart, as is entertained by Mr. Mechi. We also considered the clay on his land as altogether different in its nature from the strong London blue clay, or that which requires being frozen or white-hardened before it will dissolve in water; but although differing from Mr. Mechi in opinion, both as to the mode of drainage and as to the nature of his clay, we feel it but due to him to state that he appears desirous not only of adopting the best method of draining, but of everything else he has to do at Tiptree Hall. He takes great personal interest in every improvement, and having realized an ample fortune by business, can afford both money and time carefully to test the merits of whatever plan may be desirable; and there can be little doubt that the public are indebted to him for having so energetically called their attention to agricultural improvement.

ONE IMPORTANT CAUSE OF NON-IMPROVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE.

I had occasion to visit the son of a friend of mine, at a school of great respectability in a wealthy agricultural district. The master, a very intelligent person, showed me the details of his well-arranged establishment, which was certainly a pattern in every respect. On entering the well-filled school-room, he observed that most of his scholars were farmers' sons. Glancing at his library I enquired what books on agricultural subjects it contained? The master seemed struck with surprise (as if the thought of such books had never occurred to him) and