thing exceedingly subtile and vague, which can only be learned in colleges. But we assure them it is something exceedingly practical; it means nothing more than farming conducted in the best and most systematic manner.

At this season of the year, we call the attention of our farmers to these, the leading ideas which should govern in agriculture. In the mechanical, department of farming, it is a gratifying fact that our country is unrivaled; thanks to our inventors, and the encouragement given to them by the protection of patents. No farmer can really be successful unless he employs the most improved labor-saving implements and machines; and to us it is a most certain sign of success and progress to witness the alacrity of our farmers in adopting the most recently patented and improved machinery. Among the most valuable patents issued are those for agricultural implements; they meet with ready sales, and are justly remunerative. Every farmer should commence the season's operations with the best implements he can obtain; they will yield profitable returns for their cost before the year is closed.

## Correspondence.

### METCALFE FARMERS' CLUB.

METCALFE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX,
March 12th, 1860.

*To the Editor of the Agriculturist.*

GENTLEMEN,—A Farmers' Club in connection with the Branch Agricultural Society has been established here, and the members meet monthly for the discussion of subjects pertaining to agriculture. As the prospects of the agriculturists brighten or fade, so do the prospects of our noble country, and any thing that will tend to foster or promote the interests of the farmer should be looked upon as of great national as well as individual importance. Under these considerations I have sent you a brief report of the discussions that have taken place at two of our meetings. If you can find any thing in them that you consider will be of benefit to our brother farmers, and worth publishing in the *Agriculturist*, I shall, with great pleasure, furnish you with the reports of other meetings as they occur.

Yours truly,

THOMAS MOYLE,
Secretary.

#### SOWING SPRING WHEAT.

On the 6th of February, the subject discussed was The best mode of preparation of land for sowing spring wheat.

The Chairman, CHRISTOPHER BEER, Esq., R. N., an old resident of Canada, and a successful farmer, in introducing the subject, said,—he had grown more or less spring wheat for twenty years; he had raised the best crops after hoed crops the previous year, by fall plowing and early sowing in spring. Thinks the Fife Wheat is best adapted to this part of the country. As the land is strong and fertile, great care should be taken in sowing not to bury the seed too deep; from 1½ to 2 inches was quite deep enough for germination, and if sown deeper a large quantity of the seed rotted in cold or damp weather before it came up; and on the other hand the roots will run far enough down if the land is well cultivated.

Mr. HAWKEN said, from his experience fall plowing was the best. Notwithstanding the short crop of 1858 he averaged twenty bushels to the acre on pea fallow. He agreed with the chairman in regard to the advantage of early sowing.

Mr. MOYLE said, the subject under discussion, the best preparation for spring wheat, was one of vital importance. In the first place it is coming into general use among farmers, who, a few years ago, hardly raised any, and consequently was almost a new crop to them. And this was in consequence of the belief that the midge did not damage it to the same extent as it did the fall wheat, a belief that his experience fully confirmed. His preparation was fall ploughing after a hoed crop or pea fallow, putting the cultivator length ways of the furrow before sowing, and across after, and he found that the crops came up quick and even, and generally looked well until they were harvested. His crops generally averaged 20 bushels to the acre.

Mr. ABRAYS, miller at Napier, said that farmers should be very careful as to which kind of seed they sowed; as that which grew the largest number of bushels to the acre was not always the best for sale or for milling purposes.

Mr. F. HARRIS said, he had sowed two kinds of wheat in one field, Morden and Fife. The Fife was a good crop, the Morden rusted and consequently was worth nothing.

Mr. THOMPSON said he had very little experience in growing spring wheat, but perfectly agrees with the other speakers in regard to fall plowing and early sowing.