

But there are elements in this grain which are not abundant, in a form ready to enter into the organization of wheat plants. When we have the seed, the land ploughed, harrowed and fenced, at no small expense, and *ninety-four or five per cent.* of every thing required to give 30 bushels to the acre, the other 6 per cent, of ingredients lacking are worth their treble weight in clean wheat, if they will add 15 bushels per acre to the crop.

What was the value per pound of the few horn shavings used by the Mayor of Albany, which added 90 bushels of corn to two acres of land, more than were harvested on an acre in all other respects treated like the two named? Some of you may have noticed, that one kernel of wheat will often send up ten stems, and that under favorable circumstances, each stem will bear an ear containing 100 or more plump seeds. I have frequently counted over 130 seeds in a head or ear. This is less than half the yield of stems which has been obtained, yet it shows a perfect willingness, and the capacity, in Nature to give a return of *one thousand fold* on the seed planted. A single peck of seed planted on an acre, in drills, and judiciously supplied with all the ingredients necessary to form perfect plants, and yielding at this rate, would give a crop of 250 bushels.

Experience has demonstrated the practicability of increasing largely the yield of grain without augmenting the growth of the straw in an equal ratio. You will bear witness to the truth of the remark, that it is not always the heaviest yield of straw in wheat, oats, corn, clover, or peas, that gives the most grain or seed. I assure you, that if you will feed to your hungry plants a good deal more of these ingredients taken from them, and most insanely thrown away in urine, you will soon know, why guano is worth sixty dollars a ton.

By cultivating the soil with the plough and hoe, it loses not only the minerals carried off in the crops, but not a little of the same substances while dissolved in water, which, instead of being taken up into the circulation of cultivated plants, pass with the water into creeks, rivers, and the ocean. How much of the vegetable salts of lime, potash, soda, and magnesia, are lost from cultivated land, it is impossible to say. But there is scarcely a spring or well, especially in a good grain country, whose water is not "hard." By evaporating a few gallons of such water in a clean vessel, a thin coat of white powder will cover its bottom and sides—being the minerals held in solution in the water, which it took from the earth.

Nature has done much for the farmers of Monroe county, in providing ready to your hands a soil remarkable for its fertility, and an atmosphere, for your lungs, not less remarkable for its salubrity. I rejoice to know that these great natural advantages are duly appreciated and well deserved, by a rural population alike distinguished for their intelligence and their industry. Think not, that while I contend, we all have something to learn, I would under-estimate the wonderful

improvements which have been made by the hardy tillers of the earth in Western New York. No man respects honest, productive industry more than I do. All I desire is, to see it better directed, that it may be better rewarded. I have often felt, and often expressed, my deep anxiety to see the time when every practical farmer in the State shall be able to produce all that he and his family shall need, or a fair equivalent, and then know quite as well how to keep and enjoy the rich fruits of his honest toil, as all the non-producers in the land shall know how to exchange their shadows for the working man's substance.

Believe me—those that create, by hard work, nearly all the good things consumed by civilized man, ought to learn how to *keep*, as well as how to *earn* property. Pauperism is on the increase, and it would be well if every man, woman, and child knew the reason why.

#### HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL CATTLE SHOW.

It will no doubt be borne in mind by the friends of agriculture in the Home District, that on Wednesday the 14th inst., the Fair and Cattle Show will be held in front of the New Gaol, Toronto, and that on the following day prizes will be awarded for the best implements of husbandry, dairy produce, and domestic manufactures.

The members of township societies may be competitors for premiums, upon producing their certificate of membership, signed by the Secretary or President of their respective societies. Every encouragement is now held out for concentrating the choicest productions of this old and wealthy district, and we hope to see a general demonstration in favour of the industrial resources of this wealthy portion of Canada.

**Steeping Seeds.**—In March last, some Pink-seeds were steeped in a solution of sulphate of ammonia, another parcel in nitrate of soda, and a third in a mixture of lime, salt, and hen's-dung. A quantity of Pink-seed was sown at the same time, in the usual way. The seeds in sulphate of ammonia grew very quickly, and are now the largest plants of this year's sowing. Those in nitrate did no good, three only surviving; and those in the mixture failed altogether.—*Gard. Chron.*