

this it is easy to drill in with the seed any fine fertilizer like bone dust, ashes, or superphosphate of lime. The latter, *if you can get a genuine article*, will give the young plants a good start.

CULTIVATION.

When the plants begin to show themselves, the push-hoe should be immediately run between the rows, to loosen the surface of the soil, and to cut off the springing weeds. If weeds have been kept under in former years, they will not be very troublesome. If they have been allowed to go to seed, the cultivator has a job before him. A week or ten days after the plants are up, the push-hoe should be run through again, and the rows be thinned and weeded. If you desire large onions, thin out to six or eight inches apart. If you want them smaller, and more of them in bulk, let them grow thicker. The usual number of hoeings in the season is four, but we think six would pay better than any less number.

KIND OF LABOUR EMPLOYED.

A saving is frequently made in the expense of cultivation, by securing the labour of boys or women in weeding. The work does not require great strength or skill, and a smart lad a dozen years old or more, will accomplish nearly as much as a man, at less than half the price.

CULTIVATION WITH OTHER CROPS.

In Rhode Island, a favourite mode of cultivation in the field is to sow onions and carrots in alternate rows. The onions are out of the way by the middle or last of August, when the carrots have the ground. This root, it is well known, makes the most of its growth in the latter part of the season, and is left out with safety until the middle of November. In this way five or six hundred bushels of onions, and as many or more of carrots are frequently grown upon an acre. This is a good method, if we manure high enough to keep the land in good heart.

The mode of culture pursued by market gardeners is somewhat different. With them it is a matter of prime importance to get onions into the market very early, before the harvests of field culture are gathered. They take bulbs or pipes of a previous year's growth, raised for the purpose, and set them out as soon as the ground opens in Spring. These mature very early, and are mostly marketted in June and the fore part of July. They are tied up in small bunches, with the green tops on, and bring two or three times the price of field onions. The ground is then devoted to some other crop, very frequently to late cabbages. The seed for making the pips is sown very thick, so that the bulbs cannot grow too large. Potato and the top onions are also used for this early crop.

But this course can only be pursued by a few near cities and villages. The field culture may be indefinitely extended, and the demand is likely to exceed the supply for generations to come. It is far more profitable than Indian corn, and pays better than any ordinary farm crop. A common yield on land that will grow fifty bushels of corn to the acre is four and five hundred bushels. A large yield is six hundred bushels, on better land. Eight hundred are sometimes grown with high manuring and extra care.

VISIT YOUR SCHOOLS.—You could not do a better thing. Your boy has the idea that you care scarcely a fig's value about his progress there; your girl thinks you are too busy about *more important* matters to worry about her recitations. Grammar is dry as dust to her, geography is tedious, arithmetic is a bore, reading is horrid, writing is her especial abomination. If she speaks of either at the table, she is hushed up. You talk of stocks and senatorship, of the war and free trade. The young ones learn to think their studies very small matters in comparison with yours.

But visit your school to-day. Hear a lesson or two recited. Learn from their teachers what their standing is, in what they oftenest fail, and in what they excel. See who sits next to them in the school-room. See how they compare in personal appearance, whether they look happy and at home. If acquainted with their school habits, you cannot but be interested in them, and then you cannot possibly avoid talking of them. Making these matters subjects of home conversation will certainly stimulate them to better efforts—make better scholars of them. By all means, then visit your schools. Go alone, if no one will go with you. You will always be welcomed by the teacher, unless he is a fit one to be turned off.