

of the extra weight of turnips per acre you are certain to gain by such a process.

IMPLEMENTS FOR TURNIP CULTURE.

If weeds want keeping down, effect the operation with a proper turnip horse-hoe, few of which, however, I have ever seen in use in this country, or with a proper root cultivator which will destroy weeds, loosen the soil, and at the same time let in air and moisture. But for the love of country never commit so flagrant an act as using a double mould board plough in your turnip field, except in drawing out and closing in your ridges. Apropos on the subject of double mould board ploughs; I cannot but wonder, Mr. Editor, how it is that this very desirable and much needed implement is not used by one turnip grower in twenty in this country, when it does the work better and in half the time that your single mould board will do? Besides which you are also enabled to draw out your ridges and mould up your potatoe crop in half the time, and far better than you can with the single mould board. The cost of a double one being not more than ten or twelve dollars! A turnip grower in the old country would as soon think of looking for a crop without sowing the seed, as he would think of commencing his operations for a turnip crop without his double mould board plough!

THINNING THE PLANTS.

If the growth has been too rapid, and the land still too wet to use the horse hoe, take your nine-inch hoe and draw it once through the young plants, or a four and a half or five inch one twice through as you would in dry weather, leaving four or five plants at the extremity of each draw of the nine-inch hoe, to be thinned out at the expiration of eight or ten days, according to convenience and the growth of your plants, for I stoutly maintain that no turnip crop should be finally thinned out the first time over. There are various reasons for this; the first of which is, that by the end of a week or ten days you can then readily discern which plant will make the best turnip, and there you leave it; besides which, insects of one kind or other will have a share, and if there is but one plant left at first, and that is destroyed, where are you to look for another to replace it? And another great consideration is, that if your plants are ahead of you, and still growing fast and you are short-handed, the drawing of the hoe through the row almost as fast as you can walk, facilitates your work and gets you out of great trouble, and your land not trampled half so much as staying to single out your plants, and you can then with greater leisure properly choose and set out your strongest plants, they having strengthened greatly in the meantime—in this way you will have an uniformly sized turnip. Never, in setting out, sacrifice a strong plant for a weak one that you may secure exact uniformity in distance. Save every cock plant you can, which comes from the crown branches of the turnip, and which never fails to grow into a large turnip.

THE CULTURE OF OSIERS.

Large quantities of the basket willow are grown in this vicinity, especially on the marsh at the head of Seneca Lake. The demand for peeled willows is always brisk, but we understand that unpeeled willows do not find ready sale. Our experience is however that for all practical purposes baskets made of the unpeeled willow are altogether the best. In Scotland some years ago almost all the baskets used on the farms were made by the farm hands while sitting round the fire during the long winter evenings.

The peeling of the willows is performed by means of very cheap and simple machinery driven by a horse, so that the capital required in this department is not very great.

It is stated by most writers that osiers do not thrive well on peaty soil. If they are correct there must be something wrong about my ideas of "thriving," for most of the osiers here are grown on soil which looks very much as if it were peaty, and we have a little patch of a few square rods which grows on a peat bed of greater depth than has yet been fathomed. They will not grow well in stagnant water, but they do best in moist ground. It is said that they will not do well on very dry upland. I have seen a remarkable exception to this in willows grown on the farm of the Ag. College of Pennsylvania. There is no water on that farm, and except along a small strip it is found impossible to reach water by the ordinary process of well digging—and yet willows thrive well there. There is a small collection of willows in the College garden (*S. vitellina*, *purpurea*, *viminialis*, *annularis* and some others), and they all seem to do well. Our impression is that any good, rich soil not covered with stagnant water will produce good crops of osiers. It has been found that the osier is as much benefited by thorough drainage as is any other plant.

Osiers are usually set out in rows, 2 feet to 30 inches apart and the stools or cuttings 12 inches apart in the rows. After a time the plants will be found to be close and then every alternate plant should be grubbed up. This requires about twenty thousand cuttings to the acre. There are two methods of setting out osiers. One is to use cuttings 12 to 16 inches in length, inserted in the ground vertically. The other is to use long poles buried in trenches one or two inches deep. These poles send out roots and throw up shoots from every part of their length so that in a short time the young shoots form a perfect hedge.

Whatever may be said to the contrary it is the opinion of some of our best growers that no plant is more benefited by clean culture than the osier.—*Correspondence Country Gentleman.*

FARM GLEANINGS.

Josh Billings welcomes spring as follows: "Spring came this year as much as usual, hail butuous virgin, 5000 years old and upwards, hale and harty old gal, welcum tew York State and