

should never have known of the error in the sowing but for this fact having induced the earler to point it out to me.

Were the evil of the present practice confined to the waste of seed, the loss to the farmer is considerable, and is frequently equal to the rent he pays for the land. I am also about to prove it is of far too great importance to the nation, not to be deserving of investigation; but the loss is not limited to the waste of seed, great as that is, for there are many other ills attendant upon thick sowing, which greatly diminish the return, and are of far more importance. At first, no matter how much seed has been sown, nearly every grain vegetates, and finds space to grow, and in the early stages, when air and soil are moist, and the plants small, there is food for all. But as the plants increase in size, a struggle for room and nourishment commences, which increases with their growth, and finally terminates by the destruction of the weaker by the stronger plants; but not until after a contest, lasting up to harvest, which leaves the survivors stunted, and the soil exhausted by having had to support three plants instead of one, and producing mischief which is frequently the cause of blight, mildew, and failing of the crop.

That this struggle does take place, is shown by my calculation of the number of straws that can rise into ear, compared with the grains sown, and is plainly betrayed by the yellow sickly colour of the thick wheat in the spring, when all other vegetation puts on its greenest tints, and by the uneven crops and the small size of the underly ears at harvest as compared with the thinner sowing.

Nature, in their growth, plainly betrays the evils of thick plantations of every description, by the dwindling plants, and by their sickly appearance, and the planter and the gardener are ever ready to take warning by the lessons she thus affords. The planter and forester well know the after ill effect of an overcrowded plantation; and the gardener by the free use of his hoe is careful to give ample room to each plant; it is the farmer only, who guided by his eye, is pleased in the early stages of his crops to see his ground well covered with plants of young corn, without stopping to reason upon the room wanted, and the power of the soil to bring them to maturity. That the sowing of much seed must be injurious in the after-growth, appears to me self-evident, for in what way can nature do away with the extra plants so produced, without injury to the remainder? And it is to this, I repeat, I would principally ascribe the mildew and blight, and failing of the crop; for so far my practice proves it, that since I have taken to sow only a bushel of wheat per acre, and I have done so now for some years, and on many hundreds of acres of wheat, I have rarely found any portion affected by any disease; and so satisfied am I by the result of my practice, as shown by my crops this year, that although I last year sowed

so little, I this year intend to farther reduce the quantity.

The importance of the inquiry, even in a national point of view, will be striking to every one who is made acquainted with the fact, that were my practice of thinner sowing general, the proportion saved each year would amount to much more than the annual average of the quantity of foreign corn imported into this country during the last fourteen years.

The total quantities of wheat and flour imported during the fourteen years ending with 1841, were as follows:—

	Qrs.
1828	590,929
1829	1,725,781
1830	1,662,280
1831	2,309,670
1832	469,902
1833	297,565
1834	176,321
1835	66,905
1836	241,743
1837	559,942
1838	1,371,957
1839	2,875,005
1840	3,432,765
1841	2,783,602

Total Qrs. 17,566,270

Averaging per Ann. Qrs. 1,254,733

The population of England, Scotland, and Wales, which at the end of the year 1831 amounted to 16,366,011 persons, had increased in 1841 to 18,666,761 persons. For the purpose of calculating the consumption of corn during the fourteen years ending with 1841, I consider the population to have averaged, during that period, 17,000,000 persons.

Taking the annual consumption of 17,000,000 persons at the ordinary allowance of a quarter of wheat to each person, it will amount to 17,000,000 quarters, and deducting the quantity imported, 1,254,733 quarters, leaves the quantity annually consumed of our own growth to be 15,745,267 quarters.

Allowing that the average produce per acre of wheat grown in the kingdom is equal to twenty bushels, and that of these seventeen and a half bushels are appropriated for food, and two and a half bushels for seed, it follows that about 17,713,425 quarters must have been annually grown, and that to produce this quantity 7,085,370 acres must have been sown with wheat.

Now, to sow 7,085,370 acres at two and a half bushels of seed per acre, which is the ordinary allowance, there would be required 2,214,178 quarters. But to sow one bushel per acre, only 885,671 quarters would be required, so that the annual saving of seed would be 1,328,507 quarters; that is to say, 73,774 quarters more than the average of the annual importation of foreign corn the last fourteen years. And although I merely take the instance of wheat, I am at the same time proving

what may be done with all other corn for the saving in seed which I practise in equal proportions with all other kinds of grain, and with equal success. Having thus proved the magnitude of the national saving capable of being made in seed-corn, and having shown that if my system of thin-sowing were universally adopted, there would be no necessity, even with our present enlarged population, and without the advantage of increase in the crop, for the importation of any foreign corn, and that at once an actual saving to the farmers of arable land to the extent of half their rent may be made—I hope every practical farmer will be induced to give the thinner sowing a fair trial. Let parts of a field be drilled with one bushel of wheat per acre, at a foot apart, taking care to hand-hoe the same in the spring, and to have all weeds extirpated; and I promise that at harvest, supposing in all other respects the field to be alike, that these portions will yield the most and best sample.

The expense of seed wheat is generally 7s. or 8s. per bushel, and the difference between one and three bushels is therefore 14s. or 16s.—a saving per acre of consequence; and if I be right that a larger and better crop will be obtained from the lesser quantity, I should have done a good to the farmer that will enable him to compete with the foreign grower, and lower prices, and, by placing this country independent of any foreign supply, make all corn laws of little consequence; and for many years to come we may grow all we want, and to spare.

HEWITT DAVIS.

3, Frederick's Place, Old Jewry,
London, July 15th, 1843.

The Glanders.—Mr. J. B. Cook, in the Albany Cultivator, says:—"Whilst writing, I will mention a fact for your veterinary department. More than thirty years since, the glanders of the most virulent kind, was amongst the horses of the neighbourhood in which my father lived. Great numbers died off. His horse was affected, and under the belief that he also would die, my father commenced an experiment on him with a strong decoction of tobacco juice given internally. In a short time the horse broke out all over his body in sores. These cured up in a month or so, and the horse was sound, soon fattened, and was, as long as I knew him afterwards, a sound and healthy animal. This was the only horse in all the neighbourhood recovered. Some farmers in the vicinity, noted for fine sleek horses, occasionally give Scotch snuff to them."

Toothache.—The London Medical Gazette states that the *Flyta cataria* of Linnaeus is recommended by Dr. Gausmannschia as a sovereign remedy for toothache, whether it proceeds from catching cold or caries. The leaves of the plant are placed between the affected tooth and the opposite one; this causes the a copious flow of saliva, and in two or three minutes the most violent pains are relieved. If the patient cannot keep the leaves in contact with the diseased tooth they must chew them, and the object is equally attained by a flow of saliva thus induced.

Cure for Locked Jaw in Horses.—It is said that pouring water along the back from a watering pot, for a considerable time without intermission, will effect a cure.—S. lected