

heavy crop of foul seeds to spread over the land, and rob it of its riches.

The country over portions of western New York presented an agreeable contrast to the state of things in Michigan. Here we find well-cultivated farms, good buildings, and along the line of New York Central Railroad, for 100 miles eastward of the Falls of Niagara, a fine fruit region, with large orchards well loaded with the finest fruit. The operation of a new cattle law, prohibiting stock from running on the highways, has resulted in some farmers entirely removing their fences from the road-side; and as one consequence of the highways being no longer kept in order by the grazing of stock, they were fast becoming overgrown with weeds, which seemed to be allowed to ripen their seeds unchecked, and so form the nucleus for distributing foul weeds over the fields. This might be easily avoided, if it were made compulsory to destroy them before they blossomed, or by seeding down the road-sides to clover or timothy, and allowing the farmers to cut it as hay. It will come to this in time, when they find out the evil of the other course of allowing them to become the nursery for weeds. On the whole, wherever we went, we saw evidences of improvement in the system of cultivating the soil. Much of this is due to the introduction of better and labour-saving machinery on the farms; but still more, we think, to the wide circulation of agricultural journals, inducing more thoughtful care in the management of farms, more attention to the rotation of crops, and a more liberal expenditure of capital in manures and improvements, instead of hoarding it up at small interest in the banks.

The pleasantest experience we enjoyed during our trip was a short visit to Moreton Farm, near Rochester, N. Y., the residence of Joseph Harris, well known as the writer of "Walks and Talks" in the *American Agriculturist*. Six years ago he purchased at a cheap rate 285 acres of the poorest and most worn-out farm in Western New York. By means of under-draining and good cultivation he has brought this farm to be one of the richest and most productive in the state. It was originally covered with stones and boulders, the soil being naturally good, but in a sadly neglected condition. The boulders have been blasted out, the stones gathered up and made to do work as fences, there being already many dry stone walls built on the farm. The finest crops of clover, corn, and wheat are raised, and what was once a desert now blooms as a rose. This has all been accomplished more by good management, than any lavish expenditure of capital for artificial manures or high farming. Under-draining, deep ploughing, and growing clover to be fed off by sheep, have been the principal means used. Mr. Harris's flock of Cotswold sheep are of the finest quality as regards their wool we have ever seen. The lambs of this year are especially so, and they are being bred with the object of getting

sheep that shall yield a fleece of the softest and finest combing wool it is possible to obtain. They are not kept up to the high condition of flesh our breeders usually admire, consequently do not attain heavy weights, but they are thrifty and healthy. The Essex pigs on the farm are the finest we ever saw of the breed, and some cross-bred spring pigs, by an Essex boar from a Berkshire sow, seem remarkable specimens of porcine thrift and beauty. They will go over 300 lbs each by Christmas. Does the farm pay? Mr. Harris pays high wages, but gets the best men that can be had, and is quite satisfied that the farm not only pays well, but is the best investment he ever made. It has trebled in value since he bought it, and his crops are steadily increasing in yield every year. He has besides set such a good example to his neighbours that they are beginning to stir up and go and do likewise. The story of his doings on this farm, as given in "Walks and Talks," has done more to awaken an interest in the improvement of agriculture in the United States than anything ever yet written.

Notes on the Weather.

The mild Fall weather which characterized the early part of the season has continued throughout the month of November, and judging from one's agreeable impressions of the pleasant temperature, contrasted with the vivid recollections of the cold of last year during the corresponding month, one would be disposed to pronounce the November of the present year as exceptionally mild, if not warm. The records of the Observatory, however, would correct this idea, and show that the month, pleasant as it has been, can only claim an average character as regards temperature. Indeed, the mean has been a trifle below the average of the last thirty years. The amount of rainfall or snow has been less than usual. Very little of the latter, except on one occasion, has fallen in the neighbourhood of Toronto, but in other districts west and east, as well as towards the north, where it would be earlier looked for, there has been a considerable fall and some sleighing. A more favourable season for maturing and harvesting root crops could not have been enjoyed, and we suppose such a thing as a lost turnip crop, from being frozen into the ground or covered with snow, will not be heard of this year in the Province.

The records of the Toronto Observatory already referred to show that the mean temperature of the month has been 36.6, which is 0.1 colder than the average, but 3° 9' warmer than the mean temperature of last November.

The highest temperature was 57° on the 2nd instant, which was also the warmest day, with a mean of 49° 6'. The greatest degree of cold occurred on the 22nd, the

mean temperature of which was 27° 4', and the lowest 19° 4'.

Rain fell on six days to the total amount of 0.594 inch, being 2.576 less than the of 0.591 inches, being 2.576 less than the averages.

The total amount of snow was 3.1 inches, being slightly below the usual quantity, and as much as 7 inches below that of November, 1869. The first snow of the season fell on the 10th of the month.

There have been 5 clear days, 16 partially clouded, and 9 entirely so.

The prevailing winds have been from the west.

THE HORTICULTURIST.—This long established and excellent periodical maintains its reputation as one of the best horticultural authorities in the United States. It is well printed, beautifully illustrated, and full of useful practical instruction. The publisher is H. T. Williams, New York—the price \$2 per annum.

Mr. Gibb, of Compton, has again added to his fine herd of imported Ayrshires. The last arrivals of which we have heard consisted of Lady Avondale, who gained the first prize at the Highland Society show this year; May Bell, also the winner of several prizes; Mary, Miss Meikle, Blooming Daisy, and Heather Bell—all prize winners. Other cattle were on the way when these arrived, and have no doubt before this reached their destination. Mr. Gibb seems determined to introduce the best class of Ayrshires into the country.

HEARTH AND HOME.—This deservedly popular agricultural and family periodical has passed from its late proprietors into the hands of the enterprising publishers, Orange Judd and Company, and is now issued from the office of the *American Agriculturist*. Its price is also reduced from \$4 to \$3 per annum (Am. currency.) It is conducted with spirit, admirably illustrated, and contains, besides agricultural and horticultural matter, a summary of news, popular tales, and other matter of general interest, making it a welcome family paper in rural districts.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE WISCONSIN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FOR 1869.—Our acknowledgments are due to the Secretary of the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society for a copy of the report for the year 1869. The volume contains a brief account of the condition and progress of the State and the proceedings of the Society during the year, together with practical papers on agricultural matters by such eminent writers and practical authorities as N. A. Willard, J. D. Webb, and J. B. Lyman on dairy interests; Marshall P. Wilder on horticultural subjects, and others equally eminent on almost every branch of agriculture and rural economy.