

far as concerns the vegetable world, appears to be *dissemination*. Plants have gone through the progressive changes of springing, flowering, and seed-ing—have at length brought to maturity the rudiments of a future progeny, which are now to be deposited in the fostering bosom of the earth. This being performed, the parent vegetable, if of the *herbaceous* kind, either totally perishes, or dies down to the root; if a *tree* or *shrub*, it casts off all those tender leaves that the spring and summer had put forth. Seeds are scattered by the hand of nature in various manners. Those of them which are furnished with plumes, or wings, are dispersed far and wide by the high winds which rise about this time. Hence plants with such seeds are, of all others, the most generally to be met with—as dandelion, groundsel, thistles, &c. Others, by means of hooks with which they are furnished, lay hold of passing animals, and are thus carried to distant places. The common burs are examples of this contrivance. Several, when ripe, are thrown out with considerable force from their receptacle, by means of a strong spiral elastic spring, of which the *impatiens*, or touch-me-not, and all the species of *cardamine*, or cuckoo-flower, are instances. Many are contained in berries, which, being eaten by birds, the seeds are discharged again uninjured, and grow wherever they happen to light. Thus has nature carefully provided for the propagation and wide distribution of her vegetable offspring."

Field sports are now attracting the inhabitants, both of town and country; and the pursuit is generally followed with much earnestness and zest. In the old country, Partridge shooting commenced last month; and the first of October witnesses a large destruction of that beautiful and delicate bird—the Pheasant. Hare-hunting is usually a little later; and Fox-hunting begins about the middle of the month.

Valid objections, chiefly of a moral nature, may undoubtedly be urged against the immoderate pursuit of field sports. When they engross too intensely the attention, their tendency is to occupy much of the time which should properly be devoted to the more serious and important duties of life, and the purposes of mental and social improvement. There is, too, some danger of the moral sensibilities becoming blunted; although we are not of those who would prefer indiscriminately the serious charge of inhumanity against field sports generally. When pursued in moderation, they tend to strengthen the powers of the body, without necessarily hardening

the heart. In the zeal for destruction which seems to pervade more or less all ranks and classes of society at this particular period of the year, it may seem out of place to speak not of the usefulness of the animals which, for the special object of the pursuit, or to offer a recommendation in their behalf, that the war against the species may be regulated, and kept within due bounds, so that man may not reduce their numbers to his own injury. In the case of the partridge, as well as in that of many other birds, it is fully believed that if we understand their habits aright, we should often be disposed to cherish that which we are now zealous to destroy. This has been found to be the case with that useful bird, the Rook, in several countries of the old world. Wherever rooks have been indiscriminately destroyed, the farmers have been sure to suffer more than before from certain kinds of insect-depredators.

The farmer has, ere this month commences, committed his seed-wheat to the ground. There are few objects more characteristically rural, we might perhaps say more pleasing and suggestive than the sower going forth to sow. Modern improvements in machinery have in this, as in numerous other instances, materially changed the mode of this indispensable operation, and in some degree diminished its associative poetic power. Still, in whatever manner the sowing of grain may be performed,—upon the ultimate result of which the very existence of countless millions depends,—we learn to comprehend and to cherish one of the most important of all truths, that the wise and beneficent Author of Nature carries on the government not only of the physical, but also the moral world, by immutable laws, expressly adapted in each case to the wants and condition of all things. How calculated is the sower, as he scatters the seed on the furrows, well prepared and manured for the purpose,—to remind us of the intimate, aye the indissoluble, connection between reaping and sowing, not only in reference to the material world, but also to the mind and heart. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall also reap," involves an unchanging principle of universal application; and he is the truly wise who profits by its proper application.

The agricultural year is now fast drawing to a close,—root crops are what the farmer has to gather in; active preparations have to be made for sustaining the domesticated animals during winter. Our grain harvest has been generally abundant; and mostly secured in a favourable condition; and