

**The Field**

**Thistle Seedlings.**

It will be seen by the following extract and accompanying illustration that an error somewhat prevalent in this country, and which has repeatedly been combatted in the *CANADA FARMER*, has not yet been rooted out of the old country. Our correspondent, "Publicola," will be pleased to see a confirmation of the lesson he has more than once sought to inculcate on his brother farmers, in the following communication and editorial remarks from the *Agricultural Gazette*:—

"There is a very strong opinion existing, not only here but all over England, among many intelligent and practical men, that the common corn or way-side thistle will not grow from seed, or rather that it does not produce seed. As to myself, I am satisfied that it produces seed and that its seed will grow. Any one doubtful on that head could not do better than try the experiment at once by sowing in a flower-pot, or anything at hand, as the seeds this autumn are, I find, well ripened and numerous, and I think some fine specimens are not rare. The very hot summer has seeded abundantly sainfoins, Lucerne, &c., besides weeds of all sorts."

"In response to the above suggestive letter, and in reply to several similar questions recently received, we re-produce some illustrations of experiments which we made nine years ago. These were given in the *Agricultural Gazette* of Aug. 25, 1860. On the 2nd September, 1859, ten recently-gathered seeds of the common field Thistle (*Carduus Arvensis*) were sown. By the 21st, or at the end of nineteen days, all the seeds had not only come up, but advanced to the condition shown in Fig. 1. After the first frost, the whole of the plants had apparently died, as spring came on, however, they were making roots and buds. Figures 2a and 2b show two stages of this progress; the buds bb are the growing points of

the plant, by which its multiplication by secondary buds, a a, is brought about. Figure 3 shows how one of the plants advanced between February 27th and June 28th, the time when our last drawing was made. In this the secondary bud had grown up to a large prickly, but abortive bud, while preparation was made in the tertiary buds—a, a, a, in Figure 3—for a complete plantation of Thistles."

**The Wheat Crops of East Lothian.**

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—In your issue of July 15 there appears an article on "British versus American Farming," in which there is an extract from the *Farmer* (Scot-

cultural sinners," to whom you direct your homily, as you would have us believe.

In 1857, the latest year in which the crop statistics were taken in Scotland, the average wheat crop of East Lothian is given at twenty-six bushels and two and a half pecks per acre. In 1856 it was given at twenty-eight bushels and three pecks per acre; which, taking the average of the two years, gives about twenty-seven and a half bushels as the average wheat crop of that county.

In reading your article one would think that most of the farmers had such magnificent crops. But let us see with the average as above how the matter stands. I believe that there are about twenty thousand acres under wheat in the county in

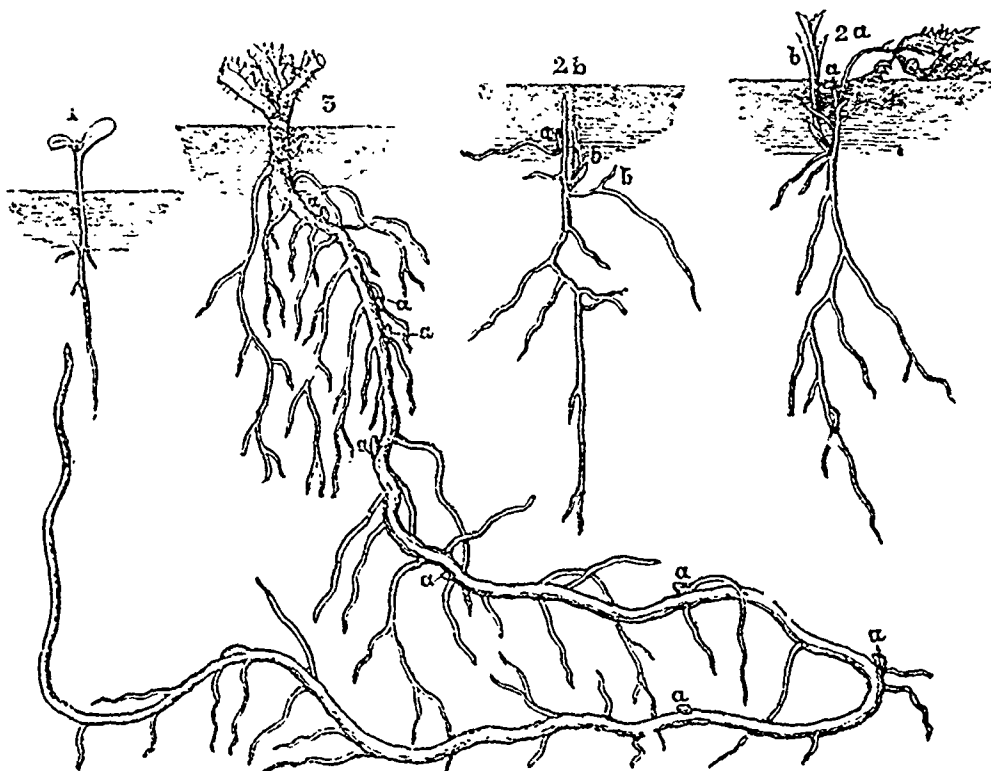
question. Now suppose we allow seven thousand of these acres to yield say fifty-five bushels per acre—equal to three hundred and eighty-five thousand bushels—(while the whole twenty-thousand acres, at the average of twenty-seven and a half, would give five hundred and fifty thousand)—leaving the other thirteen thousand acres to yield one hundred and seventy-five thousand bushels, or about thirteen and a half bushels to the acre, so that is it easily seen how far they are ahead of the "careless agricultural sinners" of Canada.

I never was in East Lothian, but know that it is always looked upon as one of the best farmed counties in Scotland—the one indeed in which improved agriculture took its first rise in that country, and I certainly

wish that their crops may never be less; but I suspect the *Farmer* was stretching them a little when he would make us believe their wheat generally yielded fifty or sixty bushels to the acre.

I can hardly agree with your own views at the close of the article, as my opinion is that the East Lothian farmers are far less subject to having their wheat crops winter-killed or seriously damaged by insects, and these I consider are about the greatest draw-back to the growth of fall wheat that the "careless agricultural sinners" in Canada have to contend with.

W. R.  
Cobourg, Sept. 12, 1868.



tish) that says, "The East Lothian farmer, who can enjoy the pleasure and deep satisfaction of viewing the level field of fall-eared wheat swaying in the undulating waves beneath a bright sun, giving to the grain a last golden tinge before the reaper enters on its clattering work, can almost to a nicety tell you that he will 'rush from that field his fifty or sixty bushels an acre.'" Now, sir if such is the case if some of the East Lothian farmers can look down on such magnificent crops, there must be others of them that have to look down on wheat crops very much less—indeed, not so far ahead of the "careless agri-