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The Farm.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

September is one of the pleasantest months of the year. As June is a delightful compound of spring and summer, so September is an agreeable mixture of summer and autumn. We have mid-day heat, but it is tempered by cool nights. Indeed, some time this month, Jack Frost may be expected to appear on the scene, committing his first fall depredations on our melon, tomato, and grape vines, blanching the corn leaves, and putting the first faint hues of loveliness on the forest foliage. Summer will soon abdicate the throne, and after a brief October interregnum, Winter will be crowned king. On all the beauty and life of nature may now be clearly read the inevitable doom, "PASSING AWAY."

It has been well remarked that "when autumn days come, Nature, like a retired merchant, changes its manner from thrift and bustling industry to languid leisure and ostentatious luxury." But the farmer cannot yet play the retired merchant, though the air is deliciously restful, and the scenery suggestive of repose. The hurry of harvest is over; but not until winter fairly sets in can the busy farmer think of holiday. Chief among the duties of this month is the sowing of fall wheat. This crop is not so widely grown as it formerly was, owing to the many uncertainties and disappointments that have attended it of late years. It is a question worth considering, whether it is not falling too much into disuse. In view of the superior quality and higher value of winter

wheat, is it not wise to sow it, even though some risk is run of failure? The loss of seed is all that is hazarded, for the preparation of the ground is so much clear gain, even if it is found needful ultimately to sow spring wheat. If our farms had not been so absurdly cleared of everything in the shape of a green tree, and if protective belts of timber had been left at proper intervals, one great cause of the failure of this important crop would never have existed. From the unsheltered condition of our grain fields, and our exposure to drought in summer, and bleak winds in winter, we are suffering the pains and penalties resulting from the wholesale and inconsiderate destruction of our forests. By all means have the patch of winter wheat. And if there be a field so situated as to be a protected nook, shielded by the woods from bleak wintry winds, let that be devoted to this crop. It will pay to put land in the best order for fall wheat. It should be well enriched and made as mellow as possible. The best of seed should be got, carefully cleaned from all admixture of weeds or other grain, brined to destroy smut, and put in by a drill, *by all means*. All grain crops do best drilled in, and it is time all broadcast sowing were altogether abandoned; but there is no crop that shows the advantage of the drill as does fall wheat. If the land is to be seeded down with timothy, it is better to defer that operation a fortnight later, than to sow the grass seed with the wheat. Clover seeding should be attended to as early as possible the ensuing spring. Fall ploughing is an operation that should not be neglected, and after the seeding for winter crops is finished should be continued as