

clusions; but the trials have not been reduced to sufficient accuracy, nor has any record been kept of them. Only in my own head has the result been registered, and while I have gained much general knowledge, much has faded, and many interesting trials are of no use to any one.

And here I would say that every intelligent farmer should take one or more agricultural journals, and should, besides the subscription, repay the benefit derived from them by some account of his year's experience, and particularly by a plain statement of his mistakes and failures, which are, in their place, full as instructive, and sometimes far more so, than the history of success.

I have employed my farm as an amusement and a means of health to myself, but this might have been done without sacrificing profits. It has failed to be an example to my neighbours. It is not enough to deepen the soil, to drain it, to give it abundance of manure, to raise better crops per acre than is usual. Farmers look on and say—"You have money to spend, and do not depend for a living on the returns of your farm. We cannot afford good farming unless it pays." They are right. Gentlemen who sport fancy farms might be of great service to farmers of moderate means, if they would subject the farm to the same vigorous financial treatment that they do their factory, their ship, or their store—*oblige it to pay*. I regard my farming, in so far as its influence on others is concerned, as a great failure, inasmuch as I have not demonstrated that thorough tillage is *profitable*, and that it is better to be an enterprising farmer than one of mere routine.

This inheres, however, is the very nature of such purpose as mine. To live ten months in the city, and two months on a farm; to do the work through others, and not the year round under one's own eyes, is not the way to conduct agriculture successfully.

I should not have done half as well as I have, if my good fortune had not provided me with a superintendent of honesty and probity, of industrious habits, of exceeding fidelity, and of good intelligence. My desultory efforts are largely indebted to Mr. Turner for their success.

HENRY WARD BEECHER.

A CONVENIENT TWO-HANDED SEED SOWER.

Every practical farmer knows the advantage of having some arrangement for carrying seed in the field, by which sowing can be done with two hands. The best in general use at present, is made of tin, and can be got of tinsmiths. We have lately met with one which is far superi-



or to it, however. It consists of an ingeniously contrived iron frame which fits to the body of the sower, and has an outer rim to which is attached a canvas bag, so made that the smallest quantity of seed always falls into the middle, where it is easily grasped. This contrivance excels the tin one in being so fixed and balanced that it does not sag down in front. It is also lighter. From its peculiar make, it prevents the seed being thrown in strips, as the hand of the sower must be well raised to get a good sweep, and the work is, therefore, done more evenly. The whole stress does not come on the waist of the operator, as it is partly supported by shoulder straps. Only the frame touches the waist, so that no inconvenience is caused by its heating the wearer, as is the case when a bag, sheet, or tin pan is used. It holds about three pecks, and balances best when pretty nearly full. For sowing grass seed it is particularly convenient. This contrivance is the invention of Mr. Charles Mason, Simpson's Corners, Garafraxa, and has