

# FARMERS' ADVOCATE

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## SEED WHEAT.

Our farmers as a class do not read as much on Agricultural subjects as would be profitable to them and of benefit to the country. Had they read and taken notice of what has been written they would be gainers of hundreds of thousands of dollars, even by attending to the two words that head this article. It is said that experience teaches fools. That may be truly said of your editor, and of most of the readers of this journal, but the difference in the price paid for experience varies very much, according to the intellect, shrewdness, or ability of the subject. Those that gain it the cheapest are those that observe and profit by the experience of others. If you go into any section of the country, you will find some farmers far outstripping their neighbors in regard to prosperity, and you may observe that the families that take Agricultural and other periodicals are progressing more rapidly than where none are to be found. In many instances where there are large working families you may think it matters not, they are doing well; but that family where education is attended to properly, have a great advantage over those that neglect it. We do not say that it is necessary for you to study Latin and Greek, or read the pernicious novels that are published, or all the trash that is found in many of the newspapers.

We are in receipt of Agricultural publications from various parts of the world, but for truthful accounts, well written practical articles, and general management of the paper, we have seen none at all to compare with the "Cultivator and Country Gentleman," published in the United States.

You may think we are diverging from Seed Wheat, but we make these remarks to show the necessity of farmers taking agricultural papers, as they are the cheapest and most reliable means of gaining experience. You may and do gain a great deal from practice as well as from observation, but these are only local means. A paper gives you the experience of the most intelligent, observant and practical men of the whole country. If one kind of grain is superior to another, if it thrives better in one locality than another, if it is found suitable or injurious, the Agricultural papers should and do give publicity to the fact.

At the present time the farmers attention is directed to the Winter Wheat. It has been the cereal that has brought us more money than any other, and we have raised such a quality of it as to surpass our American neighbors across the lines. For the past few years we have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars by the ravages of the Hessian fly and the midge—the latter insect having caused us the greatest loss.

In many parts of the country the

most enterprising farmers have been importing and trying the best varieties that could be heard of. Many have been condemned as unfit for use; other varieties are now brought forward, some of which are of very great importance. The Soule's wheat which has for a long time stood the test, and raised our reputation as a wheat growing country, is now, we consider, totally useless. Where one farmer in the country raises one bushel of it at a profit, one hundred lose by sowing it. It has been so with other varieties, in fact no variety of wheat appears to stand a long cultivation in our country. They have all failed us in a few years, and the slow coaches that stick longest to the old varieties are the greatest losers. One can tell them by driving through any section of the country.

The man who has taken an agricultural paper will be found to have better stock, better orchard, new varieties of wheat to supply his neighbors with, and an air of thrift and prosperity about his place, while another that sows the same seed year after year, introduces no fresh blood into his stock, does not read an agricultural paper or practice improvements, and in fact is very little further advanced than his grandfather. His place will be seen degenerating, or rather others outstripping him, and finally he becomes dissatisfied and concludes to try Michigan, or the far West, if not compelled to do so.