

flue for conveying the heat is below the floor. Two scantlings run the entire length of the bed with props under them to hold them up on each side of the flue. The floor must always be built strong or it will break down. It holds ten inches of earth and here the seeds are planted. Wood is used for fuel, and but little fire is needed. Build the furnace on a level with the ground or a little lower, excavating a place five feet deep in which to stand and fix the fire. The flue has a rise of eighteen inches in the first twenty feet; after this fifteen

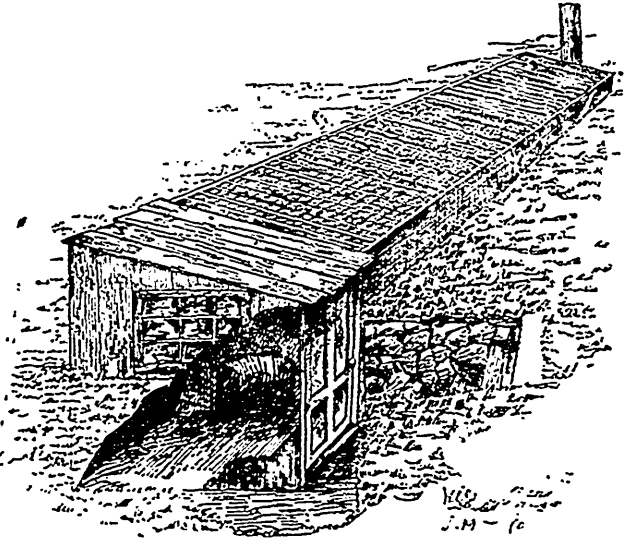


FIG. 7.—A HANDY FORCING HOUSE.

to eighteen inches to the end of the bed is sufficient. Two boards seven inches wide, and two nine inches wide, all twelve feet long will answer for the chimney. To make the furnace, use three grate bars, each 5x40 inches, and raise them ten inches from the ground on bricks. These are enclosed with firebrick, fire-clay tiles cover the top and fire-clay should be used for mortar. The flue for the first ten feet must be made of fire brick. Common brick will answer the balance of the way. A board roof should be placed over the furnace excavation, and sheet iron should be nailed above the furnace door to keep it from taking fire. Four air holes on a side allow the air from the space beneath the floor to rise under the glass. If it should get too warm, boards could be laid over the apertures. Do not burn coal. The soot will choke the flue and coal gas is sometimes generated, which is fatal to the plants. A vessel made of galvanized iron and placed on the furnace generates moisture, and makes it more desirable for plant growing.

THE APPLE HARVEST.

AFTER growing a fine crop of apples, careful gathering and assorting are indispensable to success in selling. An open shed with northern exposure is desirable. The apples should be picked into padded baskets with swinging bales, so that the basket can be let down to the