

ing to this system of management, will pay or not. Allowing, then, the same rate of expenditure as we have given above, together with a fair rent for the land, say 20s. per acre; and say the extent of land under wheat to be 150 acres, averaging 20 bushels to the acre, the price, say 6s. per bushel; and we have the following result:—

Ploughing, per acre.....	£0	8	0
Sowing.....	0	2	6
Seed, at 1½ bushel.....	0	12	6
Reaping, &c.....	0	9	0
Tear and wear, and depreciation of stock.....	0	6	8
Rent.....	1	0	0
Cost per acre.....	£2	18	8
150 acres, 20 bushels, at 6s.....	£900	0	0
Cost of do. at £2 18 8d per acre	435	0	0
	£465	0	0

Showing a profit more than cent. per cent, to the annual outlay.

This is, no doubt a very different result from what most farmer's books will show. It is on the reaping, threshing, &c., that the greatest amount of expenditure is incurred, under the old system of hand-reaping. Under this system, instead of 9s. per acre, as above, the expenditure will be somewhat as follows:—

Reaping per acre.....	£1	0	0
Rations and grog.....	0	2	2
Carting.....	0	5	0
Thrashing.....	0	11	8
Winnowing and bagging.....	0	5	0

Cost per acre.....£2 3 10

This amount added to the £2 9s. for ploughing, sowing, and other expenses except reaping, will amount to exactly £5 12s. 10d. per acre; and 20 bushels per acre, at 6s., will amount to £6, from which deduct the cost of production as here given, will leave a balance in favour of the farmer of only 7s. 2d. per acre, instead of £3 1s. 4d. Of course, farming will not pay at this rate; and the farmer can only cultivate with profit on rich soil, when the produce exceeds the amount we have taken as our average. We will refer to this subject on a future occasion, meantime we think we have furnished materials enough to engage the consideration of our readers.

### Scientific Culture of the Strawberry.

[From the pen of Mr. Leonard Wray, in "Simmonds Technologist."]

Amongst our British fruits the strawberry holds a very high rank, and is justly esteemed both for the table and for preserves. A very large extent of land is appropriated to its cul-

ture, much capital is expended, and no small amount of "art" is exhibited in bringing this before the public in its choicest condition.

Size, colour, and flavour have been studied very successfully, as the large and beautiful specimens which are exhibited at the various horticultural shows, and in the windows of the fruit sellers, fully demonstrate. New varieties are eagerly sought for, and found by the great strawberry growers—as Myatt, Turner, Robertson, and a host of others; and as the result of their intelligent labours we see, and fully appreciate, in those choice new varieties, the "Oscar," the "Wizard of the North," the "Surprise," the "Empress Eugenie," the "Mammoth," the "Prolific Hautbois," &c.

These are of the highest excellence; and in our northern climate can possibly not be surpassed in point of size, colour, and juiciness—points so assiduously aimed at by our great strawberry growers; but we may well inquire whether these varieties, or any of them, fulfil all those conditions so necessary in a really perfect strawberry plant. In fact, we may and must ask the question, "Is science brought to bear on the art of strawberry culture in this country?"

We fear that we shall "offend the susceptibilities" of a great number of professionals and amateurs, when we express our opinion, that in the culture of the strawberry in the United Kingdom science has not been applied in aid of the art so liberally bestowed.

We take the ground, that so hardly a plant should certainly appertain more to open field culture than to the elaborate and expensive horticulture of the garden. The former may be designated as a natural growth, under man's care and supervision; the latter is truly a forced and unnatural (*id est*, an artificial) existence, more suited to the requirements of a tender exotic than to the hardy strawberry.

Growing wild, close to the Falls of Montmorency (near Quebec), we have seen and eaten its highly-flavoured fruit, the intense frosts of Canada and Labrador hurting it not. In the sweltering regions of Charleston and Savannah (in South Carolina and Georgia) we have feasted upon it for many months in the year, the tropical heat doing it no harm. On the Alpine heights, and in the hot valleys of Spain, it meets us again. Far up on the Himalaya mountains, beyond "Nynee Tal," and even the highest abode of man, this kindly fruit offers its tiny fruit to the weary and adventurous traveller. Down again in the heated vales of Cashmere we find it expanded into a greater size, and remarkable in its lusciousness and aroma.

Why, then, is this plant treated in England like a weak and tender exotic? Why is it pampered, so swathed, so swaddled; and its hardy habit so utterly ignored? It is because science has not been applied to the art of growing this great gift of nature.