

another, who, when a boy, was poor, worked out at farming by the month, saved a little money, purchased a farm on credit, and by his own industry is now worth \$30,000. I know another who some years ago, bought a farm, paid for it by farming, built a house that cost \$2,500 or more, and is now out of debt and worth not less than \$7,000. He has a son of more than com-

mon intelligence who has done as his father did, purchased a farm, and is making money fast, and what is better, married a handsome, smart and intelligent Massachusetts "schoolmarm," for a wife, who will certainly insure his fortune. All of the above farmers live about one and a half miles from the writer, who also finds that farming does pay.—*Cor. Boston Cultivator.*

FARM OPERATIONS.

CULTURE OF BROOM CORN.



UCH depends for success on the character of the soil. It should be rich, friable, well-drained, and free from stone, so as to admit of easy cultivation. Alluvial flats frequently meet these requisitions—hence the success which has attended the culture of this crop along the borders of the Connecticut river, the Mohawk and the Genesee. It often succeeds well on the Western prairies, where the soil is not too porous in character. Fresh prairie, as well as newly reclaimed low ground, does not so well as after a few years cultivation with other crops. As the soil should be quite rich, the application of old manure answers an excellent purpose; or if fresh manure is used, it should be finely broken with the harrow before turning under. A dressing of unleached ashes, applied broadcast, at the rate of some twenty bushels per acre, or two or three times this amount of leached ashes, has a good effect on broom-corn. If the same crop has been planted the previous year, the stalks should be turned deeply in with the plow. Successive crops may be taken from the same land without injury, if the broom-corn is cut before the seed form, as is frequently practiced. The whole surface should be made fine and mellow, and the rows made straight, either by a good marker, or with the horse-drill, placed in hands of a workman who has an accurate eye and a steady hand.

The time of planting varies with the latitude and the nature of the soil. It is usually done about the time of common corn-planting; but on soils of mucky or porous character, like drained swamps, which are more liable to late frost than uplands, planting should be some days later. The seed is planted either in drills or in hills. If the soil has previously been kept perfect-

ly free from weeds, hand-hoeing will not be required, and drills may be adopted; but as most ground is more or less weedy, hills will be better. Broom-corn is usually planted two or three times as thick as common corn, or in rows about three feet apart, with hills twenty inches or two feet in the row, and about eight stalks in the hill. If planted more thinly, the stalks are coarser and the brush not so good. The seed being smaller than common corn, should not be planted as deep—one inch—except on very porous soils. One peck to the acre is about the usual quantity of seed used, which will leave some chance for thinning out the hills. Some cultivators use more seed and thin out more freely. This requires more labor, but gives a more even and perfect crop. Different varieties differ in size; the larger and taller sorts being cultivated in New-Jersey and farther south, and requiring more room than the smaller northern varieties.

It is usual to pass the cultivator about three times between the rows, and the hand-hoe two or three times, as weeds require. A better way is to keep the cultivator running every week or even days until the plants have grown so tall as to preclude it. If the soil is as clean as it should be, but little hand-hoeing will be needed, and cultivating with the horse will be cheaper and more efficient.

The crop is taken at two different periods—before the seed forms or while it is yet green, which gives the best brush: or when the seed is in the dough state, which is often most profitable when there is a good market for it—the price of which sometimes varies from half a dollar to three or four dollars a bushel. Two different modes are adopted in securing the crop—one is to break the stalks down horizontally some two or three feet from the ground, laying over two rows together, forming a sort of table, and