

large sum of money, but would escape the annoyance which many of the farmers have to undergo in getting clear of their bruised fruit. Some remarks by a correspondent of the "Country Gentleman" on picking and storing are excellent. He says:

"What I wish to say to farmers is, *pick* your apples; if they are worth gathering at all they are worth picking. Apples ought to be handled as carefully as eggs, for if an apple is bruised, it is spoiled for long keeping.

"To pick apples you need some light ladders, and a basket or bag slung conveniently by your side; when the basket is full, do not pour them from the top of the barrel, as you would a basket of potatoes, but lower them down and empty them carefully in. When the barrels are full, if they are to be headed up, there should be some holes to admit air. They should be stored in sheds or other airy places until there is danger of their being frozen, then they should be taken to the cellar, which should be cool, airy, frost proof, and dark."

In spring the market is generally better than in the fall; by this means they can be kept safely until then.

It is believed that it will pay to assort all apples intended for market. Not only is this a more honest plan than mixing good and bad together, but it has been found that the cash returns are better when the apples are thus put in two classes; it is found thus to be the best for both buyer and seller. Bags should not be used for taking fruit to market. Barrels may be used, and should be shaken gently as the fruit is being packed, and headed up tight enough to keep the contents from shaking.

In addition to what is mentioned under the preceding heads, it may be stated that after 5 years of cultivation, the orchard may be seeded down and mowed, if care be taken to return sufficient manure to the soil. It is an excellent plan to keep a herd of pigs in the orchard, for they not only manure the land, but they pick up and eat all half formed fruit and wormy specimens as they fall to the ground, which otherwise would have to be done by hand, for, if allowed to lie, the worms would soon increase to a large extent.

The orchard, so long as the trees seem in a vigorous growing state, may be left seeded down, which will save trouble; but any appearance of loss of vigor should be promptly met by more manure or breaking up, as the case may require.

The trees should be washed every year (twice a year is better, spring and fall,) with some alkaline fluid: weak lye, soft soap, (2 or 3 quarts to a pail of water), and soda (1 lb to a gallon of rain water), are all good for this purpose: the last is the best.

All suckers should be carefully remo-

ved. It will sometimes be necessary to remove the earth from the roots in order to do this effectually; it is said that if they are broken off they are less liable to sprout again than when cut.

I would express a wish that all who are intending to enter, or who are already within, the fascinating domain of horticulture, would remember, and remembering act upon the adage which says, "What is worth doing at all is worth doing well."

Poultry Yard.

HOW WE KEEP OUR HENS.

We keep about fifty hens and four cocks. Our hen-house is twenty feet long, ten feet broad, and ten feet high in front, with sloping roof, two windows on the west, and one long window on the south, across the whole end, swinging inward. Under the front windows are the boxes for the nests, made as seclusive as they can be, for a hen is as shy and retiring before she lays as she is bold and noisy after. Under the roosts, a shelf catches the droppings. These are gathered every few days, and saved for the garden, and the shelf each time covered with lime and ashes. We whitewash inside and outside. On the south side of the house a yard is fenced in under apple trees, twenty by fifty feet. The earth at the bottom of the house, when frozen, is swept every day, and at other times is shoveled out often and renewed with fresh earth. A large box with fine coal ashes or wood ashes, is placed in the corner for a bath and often renewed. No food is given in the house that can sour the ground, and when such is given in the yard, like scraps from the kitchen, the earth is often taken out and renewed. A lime or oil wash is occasionally used on the roosts. The house is shut pretty closely on very cold nights, (always the passage way into the yard open,) but is often open and ventilated. In weather not too cold the windows are left up and the doors open, and the fowls are encouraged to roam from their home about the place, but this, in even moderately cold weather they are always reluctant to do, and invariably go back to their house in a few minutes, or huddle together in some warm, sunny place in a shed. There is nothing fowls like better in cold weather, than a sheltered place, where they can have a sun bath, and even in summer they seem to take great delight in wallowing in a sand bank under a blazing sun. We give them plenty of fresh water and pure food.

Now there is nothing peculiar about this manner of treatment, into which, from habit, we have settled, except its results. We have lost one hen, found dead in the yard, without apparent cause, but proba-

bly from apoplexy, to which they are subject, and otherwise than this we have not had a sick fowl in our whole flock from any cause during the fall and winter. The simplest medicines work the most wonderful cures, and we have always thought the most simple treatment of fowls the most profitable and successful, and we have had all kinds of experiments in the matter, no, omitting the most expensive and profitless.—*Co. Gent.*

Reports of Agri. Societies.

BARRINGTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In conformity with suggestions made at the last Annual Meeting, a quantity of various kinds of Seeds for sowing, a quantity of Potatoes for seed, and a number of root-grafted Apple Trees, were obtained early last Spring, all of which were distributed among the members. Some farming tools were purchased, and sold in the Society. One large plough has been purchased this Fall, to be owned by the Society, and for the use of members. The Directors were of opinion that it would be more advantageous to the Society to sell the Bull, as the charge for taking care of him during the winter would be large, and add to the expenses of the Society. The Bull being of no benefit during the winter, consequently he was disposed of at public auction.

There are at present sixty members, and it is believed all have reaped decided benefit by their connection with the Society. The Treasurer will submit to you the financial state of the Society, which will show quite a balance on hand—\$145.73.

Fall Exhibitions have been recommended from time to time, but have failed heretofore, but the Directors would suggest the propriety of making arrangements the coming Spring, that members may be prepared in the Fall to exhibit such articles as may be decided on.

The Directors would recommend the purchase of a Bull the coming year, and Garden and Grass Seeds.

O. H. HOMER, *Pres.*

R. H. CROWELL, *Sec'y.*

MAHONE BAY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

In making the report, the office-bearers regret that they do not see the members taking the interest in the Society which they ought to take for the promotion of agriculture. There are inducements held out to encourage the agriculturist to press on and make improvements, but the members do not improve upon the oppor-