

the birds would take them." Now there is only one effectual cure against small birds. You may build up dummies, put cross-lines of feathers, stick feathers in oscillating turnips, resort to stuffed ferrets or cats; and all to no purpose, as the birds after a short consultation, will know that neither of these experiments is any trap at all. But they will never approach black cotton, which must be stretched in lines across the part sown about two inches from the ground, and with all the craft of sparrows, they will never allow themselves to get entangled in cotton.—*Cor. Colonial Farmer.*

Re-seeding old Pastures.

For many years the opinion was most vigorously maintained that pastures should never be ploughed, for if the sward was once broken it would never again become so compact as to form a good grazing turf. But this opinion has been found incorrect. Pastures may be broken, planted to potatoes, the fall the potatoes are harvested ploughed lightly, and the next spring sown to barley and seeded down with a good mixture of grasses well adapted to grazing—and a good sward at once obtained and maintained for many years. The grasses in our old pastures are chiefly wild grasses, and have found their way in by accident rather than design. In re-seeding a pasture it is very important to have a large quantity of seeds of those varieties of grasses that flower successively at different periods, and that are well adapted to grazing. The following mixture has been recommended: Meadow fescue, 2 lbs; orchard grass, 6 lbs; sweet-scented vernal grass, 1 lb; meadow fescue, 2 lbs; red-top, 2 lbs; Kentucky blue grass, 4 lbs; Italian rye grass, 4 lbs; perennial rye grass, 6 lbs; timothy, 3 lbs; rough stalked meadow grass, 2 lbs; perennial clover 3 lbs; white clover, 5 lbs—or a total of 40 pounds of seed per acre which would give the enormous number of 54,000,000 seeds, or eight seeds to every square inch of ground. Who doubts that this would in a favorable season, produce a good thick permanent sward—and that cattle would graze from it in preference to the bound out turf of the old pasture.—*Maine Farmer.*

The editor of *Moore's Rural* speaks of meadows which have not been ploughed in 20 years, and yet they yield not only heavy but first quality hay; they having always been pastured in early fall, never fed close, and occasionally harrowed and top-dressed with fine, well-rotted manure.

YIELD OF ALFALFA SEED.—According to a California paper a farmer in the vicinity of Mussel Slough has three acres of alfalfa, one crop of which was this season allowed to seed. From the three acres, 2,500 pounds of seed were gathered, which were sold for 25 cents per pound, or at the rate of \$205.33 per acre.

Clover and the grasses are the great needed element in our rotation of crops; they are fertilizing and the chief source of profit. No part of the country shows improvement of the soil so much as where grazing is made, not a sole thing, but a large element in farming, and the prosperity of the farmer keeps pace with it. Single branches prosecuted may be made to do well for a time, but these are included in rotation, so that all may be carried, and are carried by the wise, energetic and comprehensive farmer.

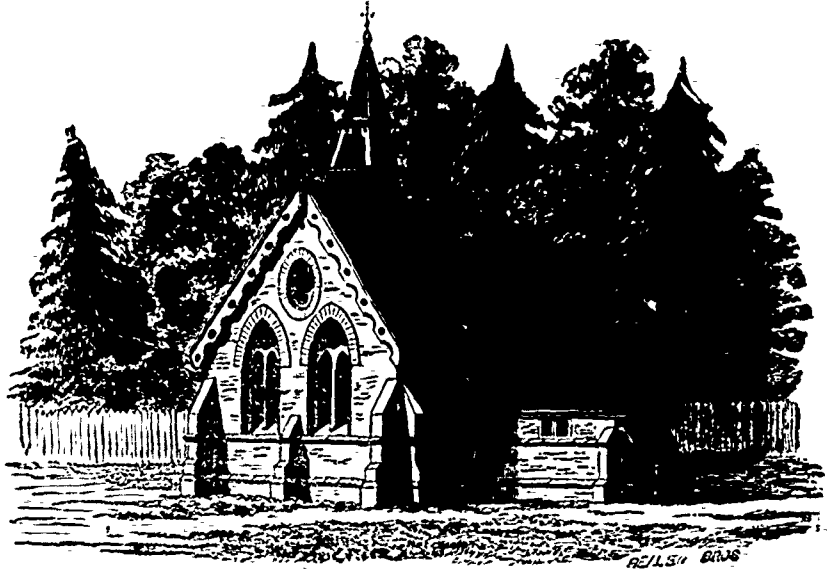
THRASHING TIMOTHY.—The *Country Gentleman* says: The best way to get out timothy seed is to thresh it with a flail—for although a machine will work more rapidly, yet the seed which it cuts and wastes, more than overbalances the advantages. When threshed out, then spread it out on the floor, go over it again thoroughly with the flail—then pass it very slowly through a fanning-mill, so as not to blow out the seed, (which can soon be learned on examination); then pass it through a sieve fine enough for the clear seed to pass, but retaining the chaff-covered seeds, and thresh the latter again—and so on, till all is saved. For home use, all this care is unnecessary, but only to fit it for market.

JOSEPH HARRIS' VIEWS.—I like to say to a young farmer: "It is little use for you and me to try to advance prices. We shall have to take what we can get. Fortunately, there are a good many men willing to try to make a living by buying and selling. There is competition enough, as a rule, to secure us, taking one year with another, all that our articles are worth. Our business is to raise the best article at the least cost. Take such a simple crop as potatoes. I heard a farmer say the other day that no money could be made by raising potatoes at 50 cents a bushel. It never seemed to occur to him that if he raised 200 per acre instead of 100 bushels, that he could make more actual profit from one acre than from five."—*American Agriculturist.*

Rural Architecture.

Design for a School House.

We give herewith a design for a School House for a rural district, illustrated by a plan and perspective sketch. It is planned so as to form one large room when required by removing the partition across the



DESIGN FOR A SCHOOL HOUSE.

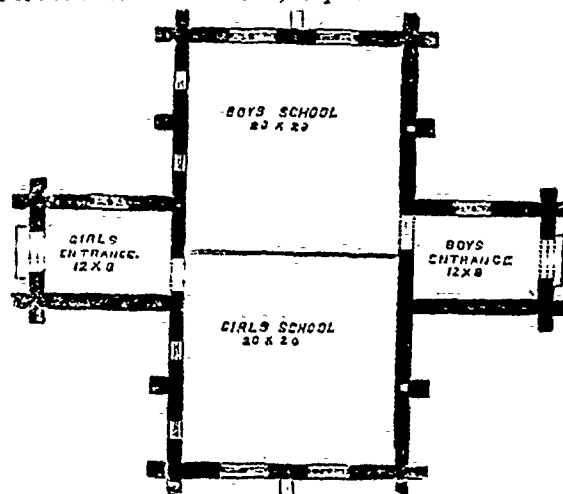
middle. It should be built with 14 inch walls, and lined with tongued sheathing as high as the window sills; above which level the brickwork could be worked fair so as to dispense with all plastering. A brick wall is far better for the teacher in schools; it does not absorb the sound of the voice nearly so much as plastering. The roof should be framed with four principal king trusses with tie beams and rafters 12 x 6, king post 6 x 6, with wrought iron bolts and straps, purlins 8 x 6, and common rafters 6 x 3, about eighteen inches apart. Barge boards to be of 2 inch clean pine carefully cut to pattern. Dressed, tongued and beaded sheathing to be laid on the common rafters,

and the whole of the roof where visible on the inside to be wrought, stained and twice varnished. On the dressed boards lay strips 2 inches by 1 inch over each rafter, and across these lay rough inch boards to receive the shingles. The bell turret to be strongly framed and bolted down to trimmers tenoned into two of the principal rafters, the turret standing in

the middle between two main trusses of roof. A loud toned bell to be properly hung with wheel, &c., and to ring from boys' school. The arches over windows and doors to be formed of rubbed and ganged bricks set in fine mortar and tuck pointed, to be laid in alternate bands of red and white bricks. All the main walls to be of white bricks. The tops of buttresses and quoins to be of red bricks; the whole properly bonded and flushed up every fourth course, and finished with a neat bead joint. The tops of but-

resses to be raked, and pointed with water lime. The mullions and frames of windows to be 6 x 4, let into brickwork and rebated for lead quarry lights; the lights to be strengthened by square iron bars every eighteen inches in height let into the woodwork. The floors to be laid with 1 1/2 in. narrow tongued flooring, edged, nailed, and with splayed headings, on joists 10 x 2, laid on cedar sleepers, carried by stone piers, not more than 4 feet apart. The foundations to be of rough stone as high as plinth, eighteen inches

wide and to have one course of footings two feet wide. The string course and plinth to be of artificial stone, (unless a good natural stone is to be obtained at reasonable cost) Provide and fix wrought iron hopper ventilators in each window. The circular windows at each end, and the Dormer light in the roof to be made to hang on pivots, and to have proper lines and hooks to hang at pleasure. The partition can be framed or formed of 1 1/2 stuff ledged and braced. It should have a cornice to hold the leaves together, and be strongly fixed to the floor with screws or any other convenient way by which it can be taken down when required.



disadvantage. Very different is the course of a good manager. He looks at all his work—has it mapped out before him—estimates accurately the labor to accomplish each job, and the time when it should be done to prevent loss, and then goes on systematically. It does not require great genius to do this, but common sense, and for the farmer to keep his wits about him. This is what makes a man practical and successful.—*Correspondent of the Country Gentleman.*

A CONTRAST.—I have known two kinds of industrious farmers. One builds a costly barn, and uses up his means for manuring, cultivating, and draining, when cheaper buildings would have answered. Another works a wet field year after year at great cost and inconvenience, and with small results, because he is too busy to under-drain it. He does everything at a