

will certainly be much too thin, providing the smaller varieties are sown in proper quantities. The same thing was very apparent to us when we visited the experimental grain plots at the Ontario Agricultural College in the month of July. Some plots of oats with fine stem and more slender habits of growth, appeared to be as thick as those in other plots, although we were told that the same quantity by weight was sown in each plot. This should be borne in mind in sowing wheat. Large plump samples will require a larger quantity of seed. The amount of fall wheat required varies also with the nature of the soil and the style of sowing adopted. The better the state of the preparation of the soil, the less the quantity of the seed required, as the germination is then the more perfect. About two bushels of wheat are usually sown by hand per acre, and from six to seven pecks when the drill is used.

THE old method of growing pork is destined to pass away. It has been demonstrated repeatedly that there is no money in wintering store hogs and turning them off at from twelve to eighteen months. The great weakness of such a system lies in the winter feeding, which is expensive. The young pigs should come to hand about the end of March, and by means of a liberal, but not necessarily an expensive diet, may be made to weigh 150 pounds when about seven months old. The food at first after weaning may consist of skim milk and wheat middlings. Mangolds may be gradually introduced, and then clover pasture, supplemented with a moderate amount of meal of almost any description. It is thought by some that an acre or two of peas, one or two of mangolds, and also of potatoes, harvested by the pigs themselves and supplemented by peas or corn so far as necessary would be a good ration to round up on. This method is not expensive and would produce pork of the desired quality, that is, a good proportion of the lean along with the fat. It is a fact, though it may not be generally known, that pork produced in this way is worth a cent more per lb. than the American corn-fed pork. Farmers who intend practising this method must of course lay their plans this season.

ONE great obstacle in the way of weed-destruction, is failure on the part of the farmers to make sufficiently thorough work. It may be that a field is summer-fallowed and yet a thistle here and there is left. The same holds true of the root-field, or that of growing rape. Now it is just the odd thistle left here and there that does the mischief. They at once set about propagating their kind, whereas if the work had been completely done there would be freedom from their presence, at least for a time. It is the thistle-root here and there, the stalk of wild mustard that has escaped notice, the stem of wild flax that ripened unseen, in most instances unsought, that soon smite the field with an incredible number of descendants, so that soon the fight the farmer wages with them culminates in summer-fallowing, which means the loss of a crop for a whole year and a large amount of labor. The month of September is an excellent one for making sure work with the odd thistles. Whether in the

pasture, the meadow, or the root crop, they should be cut out below the surface. After harvest they should not be allowed to get an inch above ground at any time, and if carefully cut at this time they are pretty sure to succumb. Let every farmer reader redouble his energies to rid his farm of the last weed intruder.

THE weeds growing upon the highways are in a sense the curse of agriculture. They disfigure the appearance of our roads beyond measure, and propagate from year to year a fresh army to invade our fields, and in this way to produce endless trouble to the farmer. Now, there is a way of preventing this, not difficult or costly, if farmers would only adopt it. The opportunity should be taken when the fence along the highway is to be renewed, to plough the side of the road once or twice, as necessity might require, and level as smooth as a meadow bottom. Let the fence bottom be treated in the same way, and the whole

from now until freezing-up time will largely determine the character of the crop for next year. In nineteen cases out of twenty, the other conditions being equal, ground that is ploughed in the fall will give the best crop. The reasons for this are not far to seek. The action of the frost in winter pulverizes the upturned land, thus forming a mellow seed-bed. Atmospheric influences tend to bring about that communication of particles which renders of easy access to the rootlets of plant-growth assimilable food that has been transformed from an inert condition through the action of these influences. The surface of an autumn-ploughed field is also warmer in early spring than that of our spring-ploughed, consequently germination is more rapid and vigorous. Fall-ploughing admits of earlier sowing, and therefore of earlier reaping, and experience has taught with an unchanging constancy that early-sown spring grains give best returns, not only in quantity, but also in quality. The only argu-

ment of weight that can be brought against autumn-ploughing is that it tends to foster weed-growth. This objection may be met by ploughing twice, which is very often practised now. The first ploughing takes place after harvest and is shallow, and the last one at the usual time for fall-work of this nature. In case of thistles, running over the land with a broad-share cultivator between the ploughings is attended with excellent results. Every furrow intended for spring-sowing should be ploughed in the autumn.



AMOS CRUIKSHANK, ESQ., "THE SAGE OF SITTYTTON."

seeded to grass at some suitable time of the year. If stones and other obstacles were removed from the sides of the graded portion of the road it would add to the completeness of the work. When thus sown to grass the mower could be run over every portion growing grass as often as necessary, which would soon make pretty thorough work in the line of weed-destruction and at a minimum of cost. It would also add immensely to the beauty of the country. We believe the farmer desirous of making sale of his farm could engage in the carrying out of no improvement that would give him so good a return for his outlay. Our farmers should not look upon this work as simply done for "the Queen," as they derisively put it, it is for themselves more than for any one else.

THE season for autumn work is again upon us, and the amount and equality of the work done on the farm

As a line of separation between man and the lower orders of beings, no clearer nor better characteristic could be instanced than the fact that man is pre-eminently the unsatisfied animal. As his immediate wants are met, new cravings for something yet higher guide his exertions and so continue until his life span is o'er bridged. He carries this into all spheres of work and the domestic animals in his charge come in for their share of its application. Much improvement has been made through its action, but there are also instances where too great a striving in response to this craving has hampered improvement instead of facilitating its advancement. In other cases it has given rise to much pain and annoyance to the subjects of its application and no better instance of this comes to mind than our horses upheld with taut top-checks, prevented from seeing to either side by heavy blinders, and made further sufferers through clipping. The top-check is, in the majority of cases, a more than useless appendage, inasmuch as it improves the appearance of but few horses, and causes them all, when used as customary, excruciating pain, as a horse's mouth and tongue are among the most sensitive parts of the body and when at all irritated must give rise to much agony. A number of our horsemen are advocates of clipping during fall and winter, but we as yet are unconvinced as to its merit. A horse well blanketed, always curried and brushed and humanely treated, will possess a coat that his caretaker should be proud of. We deem clipping, unless in case of some forms of sickness, or in summer, nothing more than an excuse for laziness and neglect. Blinders are in some cases a necessary evil we admit, but give a colt free use of his eyes from his younger days until matured years and