# Miscellaneous.

Novel Application of the Sowing Machine.

The old country tarmer, from his moist climate, and the large amount of manure he uses, both artificial and ordinary farm-yard manure, has more straw than he knows what to do with, and he also has more crops than he can think of putting entirely under roofed buildings. Consequently, the stack yard is to be found on every farm, containing a greater or less number of stacks of grain, beans and peas, and of hay, although generally there is a considerable amount of hay stacked near to its place of growth. But all these stacks are thatched with straw, and thus rendered completely weatherproof. The stacks of wheat, beans and peas, are only thatched on the roof, but barley, to prevent staining, is often thatched down the sides as well. The thatching bill in a large farm varies from £15 to £35 sterling annually.

Good thatchers are scarce, and some use more straw than others. Mistakes in the work happen, and then great destruction of the grain follows, for besides that which is absolutely lost, the sample of the whole is mjured, and consequently reduced in price. In order to meet these difficulties, some ingenious person adopted the plan of constructmg a large sewing machine, with large necdles, sufficiently strong to carry good sized tarred yarn, and of length enough to reach through the required thickness of straw. These machines put in two or more rows of stitching along the middle of a belt of straw, and at one end also in some cases. The straw is laid on a frame or table, and supplied in a continuous belt to the machine. The needle work alternately, so that one of them goes through the piece of straw stitched up by the other. The straw thus stitched together is rolled up in large rolls, and applied to the roof of the rick. The lower roll is put on first, all round the lower part of the roof of the rick, until the circuit is complete. The second row overlaps the first, covers over the stitches, and keeps them dry, the loose ends of the straw always overlapping. The mats or belts of straw are fastened on in the usual way, by pegs or spars stuck into the body of the roof of the rick, and thus the operation is effectually and quickly completed without the necessity of any specially skilled labour. Fifteen hundred feet superficial waterproof thatch can thus be made by hand power per hour; no doubt, when carefully taken off, it will last for more than one season.

#### Henry Ward Beecher on Interest.

No blister draws sharper than the interest does Of all industries, none is comparable to that of interest. It was all day and night, in fair weather and foul. It has no sound in its footsteps, but travels fast. It gnaws at a man's substance with invisible teeth. It binds industry with its films, as a fly is bound in a spider's web. Debts roll a man over and over, binding him hand and foot, letting him hang upon the fatal mesh, until the long-legged interest devours him. There is but one thing on a farm like it, and that is, the Canada thistle, which swarms

new plants every time you break its roots, whose blossoms are prolific, and every flower the father of a million seeds; every leaf is an awl and every branch a spear, and every plant like a platoon of bayonets, and a field of them like an armed host. The whole plant is a torment and a vegetable curse and yet a farmer had better make his bed upon Canada thistles than attempt to lie at ease upon interest

### Building Lime.

- ++-+OF-++--- - - -

As it is often of considerable importance to those who may wish to use lime for any of the purposes for which it is available that they should be able to distinguish a good article from that which is of inferior quality, we shall describe briefly a few of the common tests by which good lime may be distinguished from that which is poor. Of two pieces of lime about the same size, the heavier will usually be the best. There are a few marked exceptions to this rule, but in general it will afford trustworthy indica-

Good lime is greasy and unctuous to the touch; poor lime is dry and gritty; when good lime slacks in water it falls quickly, causes the water to boil up furiously, and gives out a great quantity of heat. The slacking of poor lime is attended with but a slight boiling of the water, and a small increase of the heat; moreover, the quantity of water required to slack good lime will be nearly one half its bulk. Good lime, when slacked, will swell to twice its original bulk, and if exposed to water continually changed, the lime will all be taken up without leaving any residue. Poor lime, when slacked, will swell to two and a half times its original bulk, and there will always remain a gritty residue, no matter how much water may be run over it .- Am. Engineer.

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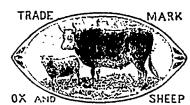
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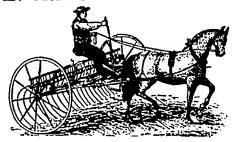
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