

pled wool, and in point of constitution, after long naturalization, are the best adapted of any breed to the exposed situation which they occupy. A considerable portion of this Marsh is below high water mark, and expensive embankments are kept up to prevent inundation of the sea. The drainage has of late years been greatly improved, so that the district is far more healthy, and the foot-rot and consumption, which were formerly so destructive to sheep, are now comparatively rare occurrences. The whole of this great tract was formerly covered by the tidal waters of the sea, and was consequently worthless. At present it rents for two to three pounds, and upwards, per acre; each acre of the better description will sustain from six to eight of those large sheep, in a fattening condition from May to December, and perhaps half that amount through the winter months. When the grass gets high and luxuriant the practice is to turn in cattle, to be succeeded by sheep, as it is not considered sound practice to allow both kinds to graze together. It is worthy of remark, that several places in this rich alluvial tract are still known by the names of their original reclaimers—several centuries ago: such as Becket's, Boniface's, and Baldwin's marshes,—ecclesiastics who owned and improved the property in connection with the ancient see of Canterbury. How vividly do the scenes in Old England's history flash into the mind, when one treads the very soil which was the theatre of their performance! After having visited the shrine of St. Thomas a Becket, in old Canterbury Cathedral, I could not but regard with a peculiar interest the portion of land which still bears his name in Romney Marsh. And notwithstanding the great changes that have taken place in the onward march of science, discovery, and civilization, every British agriculturist must acknowledge, that when learning fell into decay during the Middle Ages, agriculture, like classics, found an asylum in the religious houses, and its principles and practices were kept alive and in operation upon the estates of the Church. Despite the abuse which it has been too much the fashion in modern days to heap upon the memory of the monks, they were the best farmers and landlords of their times, and the conservators of agriculture, as they unquestionably were of classical and theological learning.

G. W. B.

(To be continued.)

THE CULTURE OF HEMP IN PLACE OF WHEAT.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

SIR,—I beg to request that you will give the enclosed letter, headed "what shall we raise in place of wheat" an insertion in your paper. The question is one that I have frequently put to myself, and I have no doubt that many of our farmers have done the same, at least those who live in that part of Canada infested with the midge, or, as many mistakingly call it "the weevil." In 1857 my wheat was very much injured by the little pest, and last year so much so that I never attempted to thrash it, but fed out both winter and summer wheat to my stock in the sheaf, fully determined that I shall sow no more until the plague has passed over our neighbourhood; and if I can persuade my neighbours to do likewise, I think that we may soon get rid of it. The question then arises, "what shall we raise in place of wheat"? I, for one, am inclined to follow the advice of R. N. B. and try hemp, and I think that I have some fields suited to that crop; but I am, though a farmer all my life, entirely unacquainted with its cultivation, and therefore beg you will insert this with the accompanying letter signed R. N. B., a correspondent of the *Niagara Mail*, who is so good as to say, in concluding his letter, that if required he will give a description of the most approved method of raising, rotting, &c. If R. N. B. will be so good as to say how the ground should be prepared, how sown, how much seed per acre, when sown, and how covered in the ground, what after cultivation is required, how to know when the crop is fit to gather, and how to gather it, what is to be done with it till rotted, and how it is to be prepared for market, I have no doubt that many farmers will be thankful to him, especially those who have not good or probably any books of reference, in their houses. I have many, but they have all been written in other countries, and may not exactly suit here. A very good article on the subject may be found in the "American Farmers' Encyclopædia," under Hemp, from the pen of Mr. Clay. As to a market, I think we need not fear yet, for very much hemp is consumed in the rope walks of Canada, all of which is grown either in the United States or in Russia, and the price must be pretty good or it would not find its way into our market.