

We beg to direct attention to the advertisement in this number of George Vail, Esquire, of Troy, State of New York, who proposes to sell several superior animals of the short-horn breed of English cattle, originally purchased from Mr. Bates, of England, who was well known as having the very best breed of those cattle. We have not had an opportunity of seeing Mr. Vail's stock, but we have heard them spoken of in the highest terms; and from the picture of a Durham cow (which appears in the Transactions of the York State Agricultural Society for 1847), belonging to Mr. Vail, we must think highly of the stock offered for sale. It affords a very favourable opportunity to any person wishing to purchase animals of the pure Durham breed, to apply to Mr. Vail, as, in all probability, they can be purchased from that gentleman on much more favourable terms than in England, including the cost of importation.

One Agricultural Society alone has purchased 1,000 lbs. of the foreign clover seed imported by Mr. Shepherd this year, or nearly one-sixth of the whole. Many other Societies have also purchased these and other seeds for distribution. There are several excellent samples of wheat, barley, pease, beans, oats, &c., sent to Mr. Shepherd's by agriculturists who have raised them, and thus affording persons requiring to purchase seed, a favourable opportunity to obtain what is most suitable for their soils, when they can be informed of the quality of the soil upon which the sample was grown.

DIRECTIONS FOR PROPERLY SOWING CORN AND OTHER SEEDS.

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Sowing is one of the principal processes of the cultivator; it is performed in various ways—viz., broadcast-casting, dibbling, or drilling. In broadcast-casting, the seed is most commonly sown on the seed furrow, and no care is, or can be taken regulating the depth of the seeds except only as happens from the action of the implements employed. The plough leaves a furrowed surface,

and when the seed is thrown over, it falls exactly in the creases between the furrows, and at unequal depths, before it is covered by the harrows. From this circumstance the seedlings rise unequally, both as to time and inter-distances, being too thick in the creases and too thin, or entirely absent on the backs of the furrows. This circumstance is particularly visible in fields of lea wheat, and hence arises a diminished crop; it was a defect in the method of sowing which could not be overlooked by the intelligent farmer; hence the invention of machines for drilling in the seed, which was attended by several advantages—viz., a more equal distribution of the seed; by which a portion was saved; laying in the seed at a proper depth, and giving facility to the operations of the hand-hoe in the spring. By means of the machine the seed is deposited and covered with a light harrow attached, or by a set of harrows to follow; the plants rise regularly, and ripen, as well as an equally regular sample of grain. Thus the great advantage of drilling consists in laying the seeds at a proper depth, the machine being so constructed as to go deeper or shallower at the option of the sower. Dibbling corn, such as wheat and beans, is another plan by which a portion of seed is saved, and the rest is placed in the soil at a proper depth; and, moreover, dibbling is particularly necessary on tender land, which can admit of but very little trampling of horses or the labour of the harrows, a very slight movement of the surface being sufficient in both cases.

There are, however, many farmers who use neither drills nor dibblers, and yet are equally successful if their land is sufficiently firm and dry at seed-time, so that they can only obtain *one inch* of loose mould upon the surface by the action of the harrows. On such a surface a good broadcast seedsman will seed the land so regularly that every square inch shall bear its plant without gaps and without crowding; by which regularity of plant, each standing as it were insulated, the whole will rise in close order, so that the whole surface is occupied; each plant is allowed to tiller, according as the land is more or less rich; no thin places to encourage over luxuriant growth, and probably mildew; nor anywhere so thick as to cause a hurtful rivalry among each other.

There is a proper distance at which wheat plants, as well as those of all other sorts of corn, should stand, in order to arrive at full perfection. We not only want a heavy, but, moreover, a fair standing crop. It is necessary that corn should grow up in close order, to shade, shelter, and support each other's stems. If wheat, for example, were dibbled in at 12 inch distances, the crop would be neither a standing, nor a profitable one; the plants would be individually strong, well tillered, and vigo-