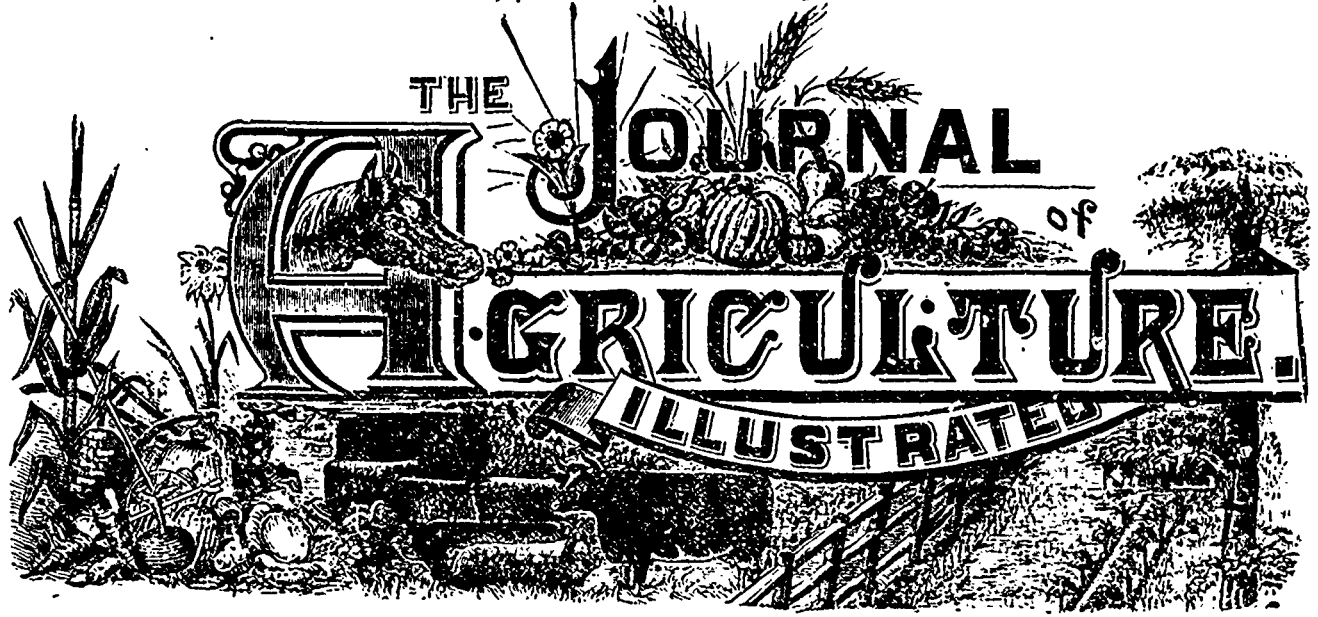


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Inspection Of Farms.—No III.

Throughout the heavy land district round Saint-Césaire, I was struck with the quantity of wild chicory growing by the road-sides. And if that were all, it would not so much signify, but by degrees this troublesome weed is gradually invading the cultivated land, and promises, in a very few years if it is left alone, to become the dominating ingredient of some of the pastures. M. Aries told me that he never grew buckwheat except for the purpose of destroying this weed. Upon my asking why he did not grow buckwheat as an ordinary crop, he replied, as I expected he would, "because it spoils the sample of grain in the succeeding crops." Mr. Chaffers, on the other hand, told me that he sowed buckwheat occasionally, and when the land after this crop had been kept in meadow and pasture for three or four years, the buckwheat never gave any more trouble, but disappeared entirely! This was quite new to me, but, if the fact be so, I am very glad to know it, as it would remove the great objection I have to sowing this grain. As for separating buckwheat from the cereals by winnowing, that is easy enough with a good machine; but in this neighbourhood, grain is almost invariably sold as it comes from the threshing machine, and, consequently, a decently clean sample of wheat, barley, or oats is, I may say, never seen.

A great outcry here, among all the more advanced farmers, for some means of compelling the more backward ones to cut down their weeds before they go to seed. It is true, that the law enables every man to sue his neighbour for damage accruing from neglect of this duty, as well as from neglecting to keep up his fences, and other *lâches* of the kind; but upon my mentioning this to M. Aries, he replied, "true enough; but when once two neighbouring farmers get to law, one of them has to take himself off, sooner or later, to another

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