

a large portion of the living wealth of the country. Meanwhile, the utmost caution should be exercised by the farmers to prevent the malady from obtaining a headway, as, should it once get a firm footing, the plague might commit similar ravages with us as it did during the long period in England to which we have referred. The plan, that of inoculation, has been recommended as a remedy. It is stated to have been tried in Belgium in 1852, and that of 600 head inoculated in the space of three months, at the period of its greatest intensity in that province, not one of them contracted the disease.—*London Free Press*—May.

### Landscape Gardening.

The usual accompaniments of refinement and civilization are displays of the fine arts, such as painting, statuary, elegant cabinet works and architectural decorations. These are all very high in their place, but there is another art which deserves a much higher position than is generally assigned to it by those who form their ideas of refinement by the display made in our cities; we mean the art of landscape gardening. The highest style of art consists in cultivating nature in the best manner. No work of art is so beautiful which is not in accordance with natural laws, and no people can become truly civilized who do not possess a taste for the beauties of nature. The most gifted and cultivated minds have ever found delight in rural scenery. In the days of Augustus, when the Romans had advanced to a state of civilization nearly equal to that enjoyed by us at the present day, landscape gardening held a high position. In the poems of Virgil we can almost fancy that we hear the hum of his bees, the bleating of his flocks and the murmurs of his fountains, as the poet sat at noontide under a shady bower, enjoying the sight of cultivated fields. The poet Newton took exquisite delight in his garden, which was said to be the neatest in England. The graceful lawns and beautiful gardens attached to the mansions of the noble and wealthy men of Europe are better evidences of true refinement than the monuments of marble, the galleries of paintings and the gorgeous temples of their cities. These are now being appreciated by our people. The early settlement of our country, the struggle was severe to subdue nature in the best form, so as to obtain the fruits of the earth for the necessities of life. The beauties of the landscape as the handmaids of nature in rural cultivation were then held in abeyance to the rude pressing demands of necessity. But as a national wealth has accumulated, so has there been a commendable search for enjoyment in rational and elevated refinements of cultivation. The late Mr. Downing, whose name and fame are world-wide, said, wrote, and much to spread abroad a taste for landscape

gardening, and he was eminently successful in his labors. Within the past twenty-five years, especially, there has been a vast increase of general and individual wealth, and it affords us gratification to witness a proportionate diffusion of taste for rural beauties. A recent short tour in some of the districts bordering on the Hudson river has impressed us most favorably respecting the growing taste for the sublime and the beautiful in nature, combined with art. Go where we may, we behold grassy lawns, like beds of emeralds, surrounding stately mansions. Silver streams are trained to send forth their sparkling showers from numerous fountains; and the banks of our rivers are becoming as attractive for highly-adorned scenery as those of the Thames and the Rhine. We commend this growing national taste for the beautiful in nature, and exhort our people to indulge in it with persevering enthusiasm. The climate and soil of the United States are most favorable for superior landscape gardening. We have lofty mountains, broad lakes, deep and noble rivers, fertile valleys and extensive plains and an almost tropical vegetation; and these certainly are natural advantages of the very highest order. American travelers in England used to speak with enthusiasm of the trim hedge rows, the neat fields, and the high style of gardening displayed on every hand; foreign travelers in America now admit that the national taste for rural beauty is not inferior to that displayed in Europe, and that we are progressing to the attainment of the very highest position for landscape gardening.—*Scientific American*.

### Correspondence.

#### Farming in Illinois.

EDITOR AGRICULTURIST.—A party of Canadians have just returned from an excursion to which they were invited by the officers of the Illinois Central Railway Co., and also of some of the intersecting lines. All who availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them of exploring the novelties of the Far West cannot have failed being impressed with the unlimited kindness and attention extended to them by Mr. Austin, who on the part of the Illinois Central, piloted them through their journeyings in the prairies, and the unbounded hospitality with which they were entertained by the residents of the different localities where they were enabled to make a pause in the rapid progress incident to railway travel.

The main feature of novelty which must present itself to any one visiting these prairie regions is the immense extent of soil of uniform composition. For hundreds of miles the agriculturist sees nothing but the richest decomposed vegetable mould of average depth of eighteen inches, underlaid by a deep substratum of very pure clay. This soil apparently has an unlimited capacity of producing Indian corn, and this