

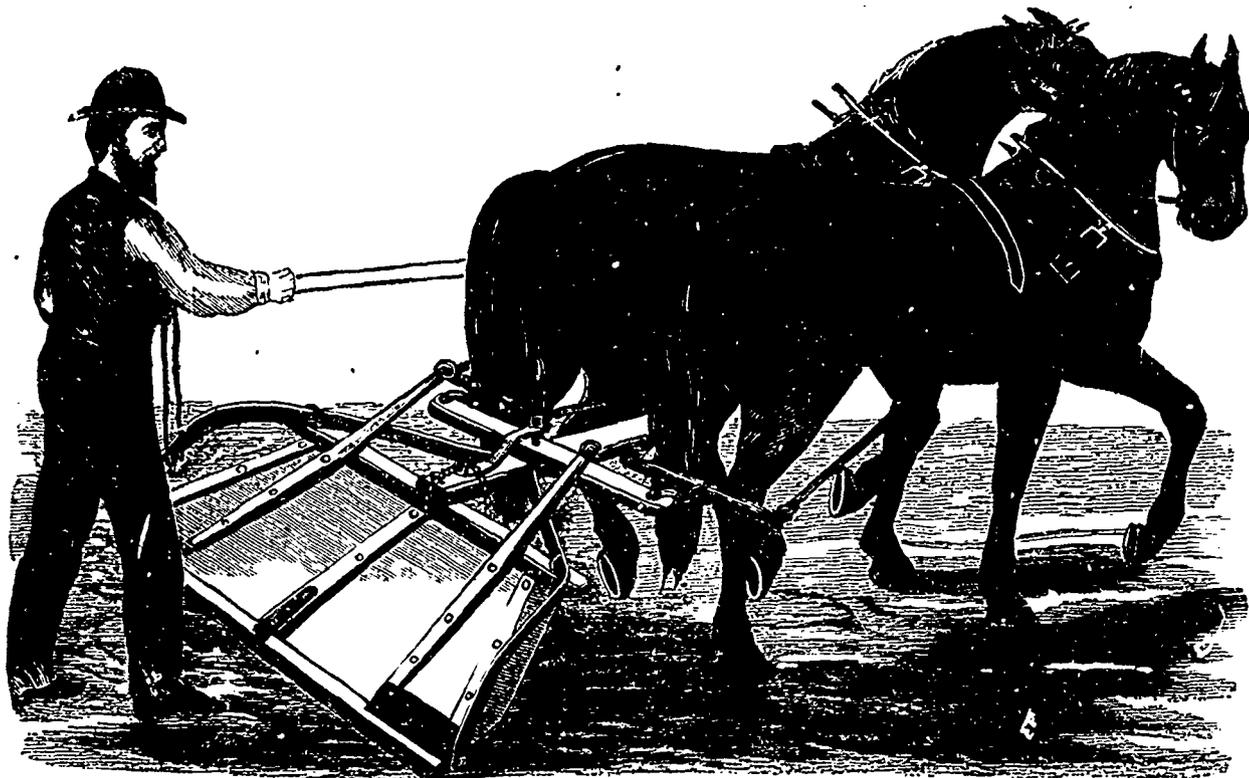
HORTICULTURE.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE VINE.

The attention of the horticulturists of our country must have been attracted to the excellent articles, written by Mr. Chas. Gibb and published in this Journal, on the various sorts of grapes grown in different parts of the province. The descriptions by this gentleman of the best and finest kinds, are enough to make any one's mouth water, and must tempt every person with however small a patch of land to make a fair trial at the growth of at least one of them.

The systems of vine-culture have been already described in this publication; but in general terms; terms from which an amateur with a moderate experience might gather much information; but insufficient, in point of detail, to guide the novice.

SITUATION AND EXPOSURE OF VINEYARDS.—Vines should be planted in a spot, which, though raised above the general level, is not exposed to winds from the North and East—the cold quarters. There are who recommend that vines should be planted close to a wall or to a board-fence, on which the plant should be trained; but I disagree with them. In England, I am informed by Mr. Jenner Fust, this is the method almost invariably practised, and he is convinced that the constant mildew of the grapes in that country, particularly in the Western counties, is chiefly owing to the want of circulation of air caused by this mode of training. If, however, a trellis be erected within about six inches of the wall or fence, the objection vanishes: all the benefit of the heat-rays reflected from the wall is retained; a free circulation of the air is gained, and the advantage of a protection from winds is afforded. In fact, provided vines are sufficiently



Scraper—empty.

Last autumn, at the time most favourable for pruning, I wrote a short article on that subject. The following thoughts are intended to be the completion of that article, in which I only treated of the pruning of the vine, and not at all of its cultivation. Now, I hope to be able to give full details of such a character as shall enable the husbandman, the gardener, or the amateur, to carry out the work successfully from planting to fruiting.

PRELIMINARIES.—I recommend every one to buy the vines he may want for planting in the autumn, and after having taken them from the package, they may be *heeled in*, out of doors, in this way: open a furrow a foot deep; place in it the vines obliquely, with the roots at the bottom, and the stems lying across the furrow and resting against the edge. The vines, root and stem, must then be covered with earth, at least six inches in depth, and over the earth, a foot or so of straw or brushwood. In the spring, when the time arrives for the vegetation of the vine to commence, the plants in the ditch will be found in full health and vigour.

sheltered, receive the full morning sun, and are tied to a proper trellis running East and West, almost any position is suitable to the grapes generally grown in this province.

SOIL.—Does the vine require an especial soil? The true grape-soil is composed of clay and sand, in equal parts, well drained, naturally or artificially, and rich in *phosphoric acid*. Land which is too light is inferior for the purpose of vine-culture to that of heavier quality; but the latter must be thoroughly dry; for low, damp situations invariably produce mildew.

PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.—Dig a hole eighteen inches deep and wide, taking care to separate the soil from the sub-soil. Lay down near the hole a good lot of rich mould (like the earth prepared for borders—*terreau*) well pulverised mixed with plenty of bone dust, and proportioned in its richness to the quality of the land you are to plant your vines in—for the more productive the land the less manure will be required; too much wood and too little fruit, will be the effect of over-doing it.