farm, or with the view of accomplishing by their united exertions some particular object, we have over and over again seen labour fruitlessly expended, time wasted, and money thrown away, which the exercise of a little forethought, based, of course, on practical skill, would have prevented. Assigning to every man his proper duties, and doing the right thing at the right time, seems to be with some people an unattainable accomplishment. No doubt every man is not constituted alike, but we believe that defective training is the exciting cause of most of the errors in management and the mistaken and circumscribed views which we meet with. The cultivation of habits of forethought is, in fact, an indispensable branch of education, without which, nearly every other acquirement is rendered of little value. A man may have learned Stephens, and Johnson, and Hodges by heart, he may have even laboured for years to acquire a practical knowledge of the business of the farm under the most favourable circumstances for acquiring such knowledge, but if, to use a homely phrase, he is unable to look an inch beyond his nose, he has yet to acquire that without which all his knowledge in other respects is merely a confused mass of nearly useless rubbish.—*Irish Farmers' Gazette.*

Fine Strawberries.—The best specimens of fruit, the largest, and the most highly coloured and flavoured, are always from these beds where the plants are kept thinned out to rows or "hills." If runners cover the whole surface, the fruit is smaller, more shaded, and the flavour is not in the highest degree of perfection. But the cultivated bed has one drawback,—the rain dashes the soil upon the fruit. This evil may be easily remedied by placing the short grass, which at this time is obtained by mowing lawns, between the rows. Tan has been recommended, and it does tolerably well, but it is itself not so clean as is desirable. Straw, chopped short, is used by some, and is cleaner and better than tan. But the soft, clean, fresh grass, only one inch or two in length, obtained from lawns, is much preferred to either, and it is easy and frequently renewed. The moisture which it assists in retaining in the soil, promotes the larger growth of the fruit. If irrigation is applied, this covering retains the moisture in the surface soil, and prevents evaporation and crusting. We have known the fruit while ripening, to be doubled in size in 24 hours, by a plentiful supply of water, dropping on the plants, and the mulching given them is next best to constant watering.—*C. Gentleman.*

Thinning Plants.—Some crops can scarcely be planted too thickly,—for example the grass crop, which has been doubled in product by quadrupling the seed; and all the excellence of fine old seeded lands may be attained by thick sowing, when otherwise the growth would be course, harsh, and meagre. The same remark will apply in some degree to sowing corn for fodder. But other crops require *thinning*, or success cannot take place. Cobbet said, in speaking of the culture of cucumbers, that two plants in a hill would bear a smaller crop than one, three less than two, four less than three, until fifty plants would bear nothing at all! The remark will apply to all cucurbitous plants, as melons, squashes, and pumpkins—which are often allowed to grow too thickly. A single plant, (or two plants at most, so as to insure one in case of accident to the other) on a rich, well prepared, and well cultivated piece of land, with a space of six or seven feet, is far better than a larger number. The culture of turnips, and especially those of the ruta baga tribe, requires a bold thinning-out. A novice in the culture of these roots may be readily distinguished by his thick drills, who would be startled at the "frightful waste" of thrifty young plants, which the experienced cultivator boldly practices, and with such decided advantage.

Striped Bugs.—Notwithstanding we have heretofore published the following receipt, it will do no harm to place it again before our readers, for now is the time to head off these pests of the gardener, and save the vines. The receipt originated in the Horticulturist:—

"Dr. Hull, of Newburgh, raised a large crop of melons by the following process:—'Bugs were completely expelled by watering the plants daily with a strong decoction of quassia, made by pouring four gallons of boiling water on four pounds of quassia, in a barrel, and, after twelve hours, filling the barrel with water. The intolerable squash or pumpkin bug was thoroughly driven off by a decoction of double strength, containing a pound of glue to ten gallons, to make it adhere. The result was, a product of sixteen hundred superb melons, on less than one sixth of an acre of ground."