

But still a change is coming over the Norfolk mind, in that respect, slowly and gradually. One of Lord Leicester's best farmers told me, the other day, that he had 150 acres of wheat growing from 5 pecks per acre, on light soil, and that it was very much thicker than it ought to be. He wished that he only had put in half the quantity of seed, considering the season; although his neighbours were putting in 4 bushels, he feels quite sure, that he should never put in more than 5 pecks, that is dibbled, but most likely 4, according to the state of the land. My own experience has invariably been in favor of 4 pecks of seed. I make it a rule, every year, and in almost every field, to leave a portion of my land drilled with 2 bushels, as well as one bushel, in order that I may, every year, arrive at certain results. Those results, as I said before, have been invariable in favour of thin sowing; the difference, last year, being equal to the rent of the land. I should be very happy to hear from those gentlemen present, who have tried the different quantities, the result of their experiments, and I do hope, and I do think, that you are all in justice bound to alter your drills on one acre or half-an-acre in each field, and when we meet again, to collate your evidence, and tell me which you have found the most advantageous. I recollect that, in Suffolk, a very able and careful old farmer, after what I said at a Suffolk meeting, altered his drill on an acre of land in the middle of a 15-acre field. He told me, two months ago, that on that acre drilled with a bushel, he had 7 bushels more corn than he had on the rest of the field which had been drilled with 2 bushels; so that, in fact, thin sowing in that instance, without any difference in the soil, gave him an advantage of a quarter of wheat per acre. I shall be happy to give any gentlemen his name. He is a man well known. In another field he tried the same operation, a month later, which was in November. There he had no increase from thin sowing; but he saved the bushel of seed, which is an object, being worth 7s.; and he also weighed the straw from the same field, and found what I have found, that thin sowing, as it is called, produces more weight of straw per acre than thick sowing. Now, gentlemen, your wheats are looking brilliant at present, and quite thick enough. I hope that we may not find, that, in a month, or the beginning of June, excessive luxuriance causes that crop to fail. We have known such a thing; but I am sure you must feel, as I do, that it would be attend-

ed with enormous loss. Were we to have a continuance of wet growing weather, and those wheats get heavy in the month of June, the loss to you, as farmers, and to the community, must be very considerable. At all events, I hope you will not think that I am asking too much, that each of you should try the experiment, and form your own conclusions. I shall be extremely gratified, and I think you are bound to do it. In the practice of farming, the great difficulty is to get a profit out of the land. We know that there are so many contingencies that farming is comparatively a slow business. The great losses arising from diseases in stock, from diseases in horses, and other casualties, render farming at all times rather a precarious affair. It becomes, then, of great importance, that the details of the expenditure should be very closely watched. So far as my own experience goes, I have found considerable advantage in certain operations from the use of an implement which I do not see, I am sorry to say, in your neighbourhood. I speak of Garrett's horse-hoe. Now, hoeing is an operation which requires to be done very quickly, at a particular time, and, if possible, very cheaply. I assure you, that during the last five weeks, with a pair of horses and one man, in a week of seven days, I perfectly horse-hoed 24 acres of wheat, at the happy moment when there was a little dry weather to destroy or cripple such weeds as there were between the rows. Now that operation was effected at a cost of 14d per acre: and I have no hesitation in saying, that even supposing that I could have got hands to do it in the time, which I could not, that to do it as effectually with a hand-hoe, would have cost at least 12s per acre, to have done it as deeply and perfectly. Therefore, I consider that that implement is a most important one for agriculture. It is not the weeds in the immediate rows of the wheat that do so much injury; because the wheat has the power to take care of itself generally in the rows; but it is the weeds in the intervals that do the damage. The mere cultivation of that space between the rows I consider exceedingly advantageous, and I should be better pleased to see a little more hoeing amongst your wheat, instead of seeing them so thick, because if you put less seed in, you will have to hoe more than you do at present. I shall be very happy to shew any of you, at all times, all the operations going on, on my poor farm. We have no secrets there. We are open at all times to public in-