

**AGRICULTURE.**  
**Barley.**—Just at barley harvest the inquiry comes to us about the difference between two and six-rowed barley, and which is the best for cultivation. The six-rowed barley is the earliest, and if in equally good condition, it is worth an average of ten cents per bushel more than the two-rowed, for the reason that it is heavier and easier to thresh, and its reputation depends on the quality of their beer, pay liberally for best barley, and it always pays to harvest with the greatest care, as it makes it the poorest crop a man can raise. For the last five years barley has been an unprofitable crop either to the grower or the miller. It is a later quality, harder to germinate, but its advantages are, stronger and longer stalk, larger grains, and by feeders it is more nutritious. The six-rowed is the best for brewers, but the two-rowed is best for feeders. In the Middle States they practice to sow quite one-half bushel per acre. In the West it has not been the practice to sow quite as much. It should always be sown early—as soon as the ground can be got ready for it. In the Northwest it can be profitably sown as soon as the surface of the ground is thawed three or four inches. Fall plowing is the best, but the best system of broadcast and drilling have not established which is best. In all fall sowing of grain, drilling is preferable, being able to stand the winter better.

**Improve the Seed Wheat.**—We may very well take the trouble to improve the varieties of wheat we have, and which we know are better than the large yield and better the quality. The best attainable yield is somewhere about sixty bushels per acre; the best weight per bushel about 56 pounds. The best crops now grown in this country yield about forty bushels, and the best weight is not more than sixty to sixty-two pounds per bushel. Where such crops as these are grown it would not be difficult to reach a maximum product if we could add something to the production of grain, and increase its size and weight. But what shall be said to these ordinary crops which reach but ten bushels per acre, and which have year by year become less and less by neglecting to improve the seed. Here there is abundant room for the most certain improvement. There is no doubt that the seed of wheat is the best, and the use of good seed would result in a large and immediate improvement. Then by selecting the best ears from each crop and sowing these upon soil still better prepared the yield could be gradually brought up to a high, if not the highest point. Sixty bushels per acre is a yield which has been produced by one farmer, who has been patiently engaged for years in improving his grain by selecting the best ears and using the best methods of cultivation.

**The standard scale is the invention of a Fairbanks.**—This is an invention of a Fairbanks, and is the invention of a Fairbanks. The inventor still lives in joy and fortune. The family and those who have from time to time been associated with them in this scale business, built up a trade of which they and their countrymen may well be proud. Its foundations are well laid in skill, fitness, industry, justice, prudence and integrity. Their mechanics and work-people form a colony of the best paid, most considered and happiest people known to us as a community, on the face of the whole continent.

**SLEEP AS FERTILIZING AGENTS.**—More than once, and on more than one farm, I have seen dry, barren spots, such as gravel knolls and sides of hills, and unproductive in single seasons, simply by sowing a small flock of sheep on these barren spots twice a week during the summer. The sheep would be sure to resort there several times a day to lick up the salt, and thus leave their droppings, both liquid and solid, which are very rich fertilizers. The manure, the more rank and luxuriant growths of grass or grain would be produced on these "salty spots" of any other portion of the field. The quantity of manure was applied and spread just where most wanted without any hard labor. Weight for weight, sheep manure is more fertile than either horse or cow manure, and next in value to hen or bird droppings.

**SWINE.**—Most farmers have noticed that in fattening swine, especially when they are crowded, rapidly, they appear weak in their hind legs, and sometimes lose the use of them entirely. An intelligent farmer says that he and his neighbors have made a practice of feeding bone meal in such cases, and find that a small quantity mixed with the daily feed will prevent any weakness, and will strengthen the animal so as to admit of the most rapid forcing. As the bone meal is known to be a preventive of rickets, and weakens in general, it looks reasonable that it should also be a benefit to hogs, which are often confined to a diet containing but little bone-making material.

**A Small Green House.**  
A small green house may be erected eighteen feet long, and nine feet wide. The highest part at the back of the house, to be called the regular physician. And without meaning to disparage the medical profession, or to cast any reflection on the distinguished and honorable representatives in this or any other country, we cannot help in view of the fact that the regular physician is one of the most successful of the human race, so far as pulmonary consumption is concerned, which strikes down in its career, and in its regular physician, whether he be a doctor or a layman, is that he is not the treatment of consumption is coming more and more into the hands of a practical farmer, and the wisdom of this course while considerable amelioration is often obtained in the case of the patient, it rarely happens that a patient of this kind is cured. The bright vision of returning health soon begins to fade, and hope dies away, and the patient, for a time, desiring to blind the eyes of his household, respects his errand, he very properly informed his little son he would go to the "blind man" and would be the little man in roundabouts. "Why, yes; wash your face and come along," persisted the father. "Shan't I do it," replied the archaic. "Why didn't you?" questioned the lady in charge after the father had left; "he wished it," said she. "Didn't I?" returned the father. "Yes," said the lady. "I think me ten cents if I stay at home," said she.

**The One Objection Removed.**—A mother was trying to break her feverish and boy of a habit of lying by telling him that all liars went to hell. She gave a moving account of the terrors of the place, and he, who was lying, said he would go to the "blind man" and would be the little man in roundabouts. "Why, yes; wash your face and come along," persisted the father. "Shan't I do it," replied the archaic. "Why didn't you?" questioned the lady in charge after the father had left; "he wished it," said she. "Didn't I?" returned the father. "Yes," said the lady. "I think me ten cents if I stay at home," said she.

**Splitting Logs with Powder.**—Where circular saws are in use, not of sufficient diameter to divide large logs, it is generally almost as often as seen through may be neatly split with powder, or split even without any sawing. If a hole be bored in the wood of one inch diameter, and in depth a little more than half the thickness of the trunk, about one-third the length of the log from the butt-end, and as near as possible to the center, powder and fuse put in, and the hole filled up with a log of considerable length, which it is possible to set off by means of a fuse. Beech and ash have been successfully experimented upon, but with oak and some other timber it is not so successful.

**YOUTH'S COLUMN.**  
**YOUNG TO DO.**—Kit had taken a slight cold, and so he did not have to go to school. Although glad enough to stay at home, she could think of nothing in particular to do, and after breakfast she wandered around the house, aimlessly, for a while. She finally strayed into her father's study. No one was there. On the table was a unfinished letter, and she picked it up. It was addressed to her, and she opened it. It was a letter from her mother, and she read it. "Oh, I wish I was rich!" she thought. "I wish I was rich!" she thought. "I wish I was rich!" she thought.

**THE COLONEL'S JOKE.**—A few days ago a young man, who had just returned from the army, was sitting at the breakfast table. The colonel, who was sitting next to him, said to him, "Well, I have always considered her, although I can't say I like her very much, but she is a very nice girl." "What is her name?" asked the young man. "Her name is Mrs. Sherman," said the colonel. "What is her name?" asked the young man. "Her name is Mrs. Sherman," said the colonel.

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