

The Farm.

SOWING GRASSES AND CLOVERS.—Although the spring time is usually set apart for the sowing of grasses and clovers, they will be found to grow freely if sown this month. Indeed September is about the best month in the whole year in which to secure a full and even braid of grass, and there are many small farmers who would be glad to lay down a field in that month if custom and a doubt as to the propriety of so doing did not deter them, and so prompt them to waste the whole season. It would suit many people to level their early potato ridges and to sow with ryegrass in September for a crop to come in next May or June, but the practice is an innovation, and they would feel doubtful as to its success. We now write to tell such people that they may do so and be sure of a crop. Let them harrow and level the land well, then roll, shake the grasses, bushharrow and roll again; and if this be done early in September a good braid of grass will be secured in time to stand the winter's frost. Clovers may be mixed with the grasses if desired. The common red clover, the perennial clover, or the Alsike clover upon light lands may be tried. Where the former varieties have failed the Alsike will often be found to grow and thrive. There is another variety of clover, but little known in Ireland, which may be tried with advantage as a catch crop. We refer to the *Trifolium incarnatum* or Scarlet Clover, a very pretty variety which has of late years attracted much notice among farmers. The flowers are long, of a bright scarlet colour, and very pretty to look at. The plant is an annual, and from its appearance may readily be distinguished from the other varieties. It is not generally sown in a mixture of clover and grasses, but is a good deal cultivated in England in the sheep farming districts. It is sown in the autumn, generally after a corn crop, and in the character of a stolen crop. The practice is to clear away the stubbles with a grubber or broadshare, and having cleared the lands of weeds, the seed is sown broadcast and harrowed in. It grows freely, gets well rooted before the winter sets in, and in the spring furnishes an abundant supply of green food for early calving cows, ewes with lambs &c. The whole crop may now be cut and eaten away in time to clear the ground for a crop of turnips. We have seen this mode of treatment successfully practised in Ireland; the cultivation is very simple, and there is no reason why it should not be tried by any farmer who deems it worthy of notice. Clover, whether sown alone or with the grasses, often fails in an unaccountable manner, and there can be no doubt that this often arises from improper cultivation. By preference the soil for a clover crop is a deep loam resting on a limestone subsoil and with plenty of lime in the soil itself. We may here mention that the presence of lime in the soil is always necessary for the healthy production of clover, and it very often happens that cases of failure or "clover-sickness," as it is termed, may be traced directly to the deficiency of lime in the soil. It must not be supposed, however, that the growth of clover is confined to this class of soils alone. It is found to grow on almost every soil capable of ordinary cultivation; still the farmer, in deciding upon sowing, will do well to remember the peculiarities of the clover plant and to endeavour in some way to adapt the soil to its requirements. Deep and well cultivated the soil should be in every case, irrespective of its quality, if we would have it produce clover in perfection. The habit of the plant is to form large and fleshy roots, and to drive these deeply and vigorously into the soil, to seek their supply of nourishment at a considerable depth in it. Hence, when clover is sown with a grain crop, under favourable conditions, both thrive rapidly because they do not interfere with each other, as, though each derives its supply of food from the same soil, it seeks it at a different strata in the soil. This tendency to strike its roots deeply renders the growth of clover very advantageous on stiff clay soils, as it exercises a mechanical effect upon them by rendering them to some extent open and porous. The crop, too, benefits by this power of penetration, for its roots, being deeply buried in the soil, have the power of obtaining moisture at a time when other plants of a different tendency are quite parched and languid from the effects of a dry season. Clover possesses many advantages, such as a large leaf system and a deep and strong root system, which enable it to grow on dry soils; still it must be remembered that upon such it is grown at a disadvantage, and its produce will be less than if the circumstance of growth were more favourable, and it were supplied with a due proportion of moisture. Not that by any means we would recommend its cultivation on lands which are undrained and which probably have large quantities of stagnant water percolating through their under-strata, cropping up occasionally in the form of little springs or oozings, and souring everything in the shape of vegetation which appears upon the surface. No thinking man would sow clover in such a soil, and we would never think of noticing such a practice were we not painfully aware of its frequency among small farmers in Ireland. Over and over again has it been our lot to witness the lavish waste of seed and money incurred by men who persisted in sowing clovers and grass seeds in such a soil. If sown with a corn crop, the corn turned yellow and sickly, the clover failed altogether, and the great bulk of the grasses also, leaving a worthless coating of Yorkshire fog or some other indigenous grass, instead of the clover and grasses which were expected to appear in due season. Clover, if grown in rotation and intended for soiling, is invariably sown after a grain crop, and generally in mixture with grass seeds. Strangely enough, this latter practice, though commonly prevailing, is opposed to the recognised principles which should regulate a rotation. Italian ryegrass is the grass most generally selected to mix with clover for soiling, and is sown to succeed a grain crop, and to be followed by another, although ryegrass belongs to the same natural order as the grain crops, possesses the same food requirements, and is a plant which rotatory principles, if strictly followed, would remove altogether from such a place in a rotation. As it is, farmers do not appear as yet to have hit upon a substitute, and science contents itself with proclaiming that the practice is a wrong one, and destined eventually to prove injurious to the general

produce of the farm. Of course where such mixtures are sown for permanent pastures, they do not become so objectionable.—*Nation*.

THE FRANCISCANS AND JESUITS IN EGYPT.

At last we have some news from the religious in Egypt. Father Francis, of Orta, a Franciscan, writes as follows to the *Unita Cattolica*, of Turin: "There are no longer any Europeans, either Christians or Jews, in Egypt. . . . We are the only ones who remain—we and the poor Franciscan nuns. O, if those who ill-treat us in Italy and in Europe could only know and appreciate what is going on here! If the Italians have little or no respect for us, the Mussulmans—for the moment, at least—hold us in great esteem. The poor Sisters of Kafrdour were much alarmed at finding themselves left alone in their convent. The Mussulmans came to encourage them, telling them not to be afraid, because they (the chiefs) would undertake to guard and defend them. They invited the nuns, if they were afraid to remain in their convent, to lodge in their houses, which were open to receive them. The Sisters thanked them, and preferred to remain at their post. Thereupon the *Mahmour*, after having posted a sentinel near the convent, himself patrolled the neighbourhood with his men during the night, with a view to the better protection of the nuns. The Mussulmans of Mansourah, also, are well pleased that we have not gone away, and no one molests us."

As regards the Jesuit missionaries, we have received some interesting communications, which inform us of the safety of the Fathers of Alexandria and Cairo. In the former city the Society has been established only since the beginning of the present year, having had to encounter many difficulties in going there at all and still greater difficulties in obtaining a house of residence. They were scarcely settled there when, first, the massacre of the 11th of June and then the bombardment of the 11th of July occurred. Amidst all the anxiety, and even panic, which preceded those events they persevered, to the surprise of lookers-on, in preparing their chapel for the uses of the public, and, on the 26th of June, one of the two fathers wrote in the following terms to his superior: "We shall very soon be left quite alone. We try to inspire those around us with courage, without much effect sometimes, but now and then we succeed. We are every day receiving congratulations from those who remain. Indeed, if there is no danger, why should we desert our post? and if there is danger, is it not the proper place for us?"

The two missionaries accordingly remained on shore all through the bombardment and the subsequent sacking and burning of Alexandria, and rendered what assistance they could to the victims, although their house, in the Place Mehemet Ali, was far distant from the centre of the town.

The most recent intelligence, while it contains no news as to what may or may not have befallen the house, proves that the two missionaries are safe. One of them is the brother of the lieutenant in the French army who was lately murdered in the Flatters expedition to Central Africa, and his family, having already suffered so terrible a loss, were naturally in great anxiety about him. From Cairo the Father Superior writes on the 16th of June: "You must be very anxious about us after the sanguinary riot at Alexandria; but set your minds at ease, for we are quite tranquil here and in good health. The crisis through which we are passing may become more grave, it is true, but we have not yet come to the general massacre about which there have been rumours for some days past. The panic is complete and unparalleled. Cairo is emptying visibly, and shops are closing, the banks suspending operations, the great administrative establishments emigrating. Those who do not fly are taking measures to meet a rising and an attack. The pupils are leaving the classes—ours as well as those of the Brothers. And, though we do not apprehend any great danger, we shall have to take steps to secure the safety of our Coptic seminarists."

Scarcely a policeman was to be seen anywhere in the leading streets on Tuesday last; the city was given over, as the West-British organs would put it, to the mercies of a monster Irish mob; and yet the most marvellous peace, good order, and good humour prevailed throughout the entire day! The coincidence will probably appear strange to many of our foreign visitors, who have been accustomed to hear from our rulers and their supporters in the Press that the Irish cannot be trusted to be their own policemen, and must always be kept down by the strong hand of military power; but, of course, it will be nothing strange to Irishmen themselves. Talking of the behaviour of the people crowded together in the streets on Tuesday, we may further note that little or no drunkenness was to be observed even late at night.—*Nation* Aug. 19th.

Miss Wanda Brown, residing at a fashionable boarding-house in Thirty-Ninth-street, New York City, recently gave her landlady, Mrs. Beedle, in charge for assault and battery. Being requested by the sitting magistrate to state the particulars of the assault, she deposed that upon three several occasions Mrs. Beedle had put a huge bullfrog into her bed. "Is that so?" inquired his Honor of the prisoner. "Well Judge, I admit the frogs," replied Mrs. Beedle; "but what is one who is poor, though honest, to do with a boarder who will neither pay nor quit? This is how it was. I had lost enough money by her, and wasn't going to waste any more on getting her put out of the house by the strong arm of the law. But my husband supplies cold-blooded animals to the medical students for their experiments, and so it struck me one day, looking over his stock, that a likely way to persuade Miss Brown to pay up, or better still, to get rid of her, would be to administer a frog or two in her bed." "Did your expedient succeed?" asked the magistrate, with a smile. "You bet," answered Mrs. Beedle. "Did she pay up then?" "Not much, judge; but, after the third frog, she vamoosed the raucous." "That was a good notion of yours, Mrs. Beedle," observed his Honor, vainly striving to keep his countenance, "but duty compels me to fine you three dollars."