

has ceased, I should be curious to learn how the cost and carriage of a load of light horse dung from our cities can be made to pay like it, deposited as it often is, by the way-side for months, "to waste its fragrance on the desert air." Talk of composting not paying expenses! I should despair of reaping any profit from such an opposite course of management, until the earth can be brought to give *something for nothing*, as a writer somewhere has it. If our friends would call at the neat and elegant nursery establishment of Mr. Hovey, at Cambridge; they would have the satisfaction of witnessing the process of composting in perfection; one thing quite certain, the garden culture, in all its branches, "is the perfection of good husbandry."—*Cor. Boston Cultivator.*

THE GUANO IN GARDENS.—Perhaps it is not generally known that a slight sprinkling of guano is of essential service to leek and onion beds, when fairly braided or above the ground. The experiment was tried last year, and proved eminently successful. In the same garden, during several preceding seasons, the worms and other insects had acquired a mastery that went far to destroy the entire crop; but after, and in consequence of the new application, the dustiest of pot-herbs, at lifting time and after, were found sound and good; in fact, not a few of them are so still. The powdering, however, should be skilfully light, otherwise the effects may prove hurtful rather than beneficial. Of the accuracy of the latter fact, we have ourselves seen instances in the case of flowers, a large portion of which were utterly destroyed from the over use of guano, an article which, in some respects, resemble salt and soot—both excellent antidotes to vermin, but which, if used with too lavish a hand, may render the cure worse than the disease. The practice here recommended, has long been acted on in Peru and in its independencies, not only in gardens, but the open fields, in the case of a great variety of vegetables. When the plant, according to its nature, has reached a certain stage, a slight ring is drawn in the soil around, guano applied for the purpose of absorption and the puncturings covered. There it remains for two, three, or more days, after which the ground is watered; and, if we may believe the testimony of travellers, the effects are truly surprising.—*Dunfries Courier.*

PLOUGHING.—The experiment of ploughing with the heifer, has not yet been fairly tried among us. It is believed that a team of cows, properly managed, will do all the ordinary work of a small farm, and furnish as much milk as if the animals were not worked. The Maine farmer publishes the result of an experiment in working cows, made by a Mr. Hoyt, of Amesbury, Mass., many years ago. He was a small farmer, cultivating only twenty five acres, from which he derived a support for himself and family. For breaking up and his other heavy operations, he usually obtained a stronger team, but performed the ordinary work on the farm with his two cows. He worked them three hours early in the morning, and three more late in the afternoon, permitting them to rest during the interval, feeding them generously all the while, and milking them three times a day. It was a common remark that they furnished more butter and cheese than any other two cows in town. The experiment deserves a careful trial.—*Worcester, Mass. Egis.*

PLOUGHING IN STUBBLE.—If stubble is ploughed in, soon after reaping, it will soon rot and become manure; the sooner it is turned, the lighter

will be your land, and the more servicable will be your stubble. On planting in the following spring you will need to plough but once.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

HAY MAKING.

We think it best to cut grass for hay, as near as possible to the time when it is in fullest bloom. Of course, if it is cut when most of it is in this state, some may be little past, and some may not have quite reached full bloom. We know there has therefore been some difference of opinion as to the stage grass should be when it is cut, but we believe the experience of the best farmers is in agreement with the position above assumed. Those who are in the habit of cutting herbs, cut them when in this stage, because it is known that they contain at that time the most of that peculiar principle from which they derive their efficacy and value. The saccharine of sugar principle, which constitutes one of the chief sources of nutriment in herbage, is found in the greatest quantity at the period of bloom. It may sometimes be expedient to cut grass before it has reached this state; particularly where it falls down, and is in danger of souring or rotting. When this happens, it should be cut, whatever state it may be in, because if it remains on the ground it will spoil, and the fermentation which takes place, will destroy the roots. Another great advantage in cutting grass before the seed forms is, that the roots are not so much exhausted, and that after growth is much more vigorous.

In some parts of the country, it is the practice to mow the grass and let it lie untouched on the ground, "through sunshine and shower," for several days before it is stacked or put in the barn. It is quite common to begin on Monday and continue to mow till Saturday, when, with hand rakes and horse rakes, all turn in, take it up and stack it; and this is done too, without much regard to the state of the weather at the time it is raked, or to what it may have been after it was cut. The appearance of the animals which are fed on hay thus managed, is evidence enough of its worthlessness.

After grass is cut and partly dried, it ought never to be exposed to dew or wet. The best way is to spread out the mown grass evenly, as soon as the wet has dried off from the spaces between the swathes, and before the dew falls in the evening, rake it and put it in cock. Where the crop is heavy, considerable time will be gained in making, by this plan. If it is only wilted when it is put in cock, it will, in a short time, undergo a *sweat*, which will much facilitate its making when it is again opened to the sun. Many good farmers believe that it will make more in two days, if it is kept in cock twelve hours, than it will make in three days without being put in cock.

In making clover hay, we are decidedly in favor of not exposing it much to the sun after it is first wilted. We speak from experience, having practised various modes, and we are certain that it may be made with less labor, and that it is of far superior quality when cured in cock, than in any other way. When the swathes are a little wilted, pitch them into cocks—laying it up in such a manner that it will stand the weather, which is easily done by the exercise of a little care. Examine the hay from day to day, to see how the process of curing advances, and when it seems to be so well made, that with what it will dry in handling, it will do to put in the barn or stack, turn over the cocks, loosen up the bottoms a little with a fork, and proceed to load it. Clover hay thus cured, is not likely