

4. It will develop talent in many persons, where it now slumbers useless and powerless. The exercises in mechanical skill furnished by the farm, have awakened the mind of many a youth, who has ripened into a noble and skillful mechanic or artist.

But we have said enough. Give the boys and girls a good chance to cultivate their powers in a practical way. You can never predict what treasures you will find.—*Ohio Farmer.*

STABLE MANURE—DOES IT PAY TO PURCHASE?

This depends entirely upon circumstances. If it is not sold too high, it certainly may, and at present prices in the immediate vicinity of cities and large towns, where market gardening on a large scale is an object, and where every article produced by cultivation finds a ready sale and brings a quick return in cash at high prices, there can be no doubt but it pays well.

But in the country, (and the country imitates the city in more things than one, else city prices for manure had never been adopted,) we very much question whether the farmer, who must wait until the market of his produce comes round in a natural and often a somewhat circuitous channel, and where the profits of the well-tilled acre must be less than in the immediate vicinity of towns, a better and more economical way of fertilizing can be adopted.

No farmer thinks of applying less than twelve loads of manure to an acre, and often puts on a much greater quantity. So then, the lowest rate we can estimate upon to enrich that acre, is twelve dollars. Now the question is, are there no means by which that acre can be made equally fertile at a less expense?

There are but few farms that do not furnish natural facilities for manure making beyond the stock that is wintered upon them, while many are blessed with one of the best of all deposits, the muck bed, to favour the object. Wherever this is found, no practical experiments can for a moment doubt but that he can manufacture manure for less than one half the price now asked by those who have manure to sell.

The first expense is hauling out the muck, and this must depend upon the distance it is taken to the compost heaps, which of course can be no greater than drawing one-half of the manure purchased, so that the cartage, taken as a whole, may safely set one against the other.

All that prevents the immediate use of muck, is the coldness and acidity it acquires from its continually being in water. These may be removed by an exposure to the atmosphere, frequently turned, or by adding correctives, such as lime, ashes or gypsum, and its value is increased in proportion as these substances are added, especially the two last.

Now we insist upon it, that for root crops and top-dressing, a load of well-prepared meadow or swamp muck is worth more than a load of stable manure, such as is usually sold. We claim it from the fact that it contains so large a portion of fibre, that will be long in going to decay, and yet its decay will not only furnish a natural and healthful food for plants, but will keep the earth in a porous condition so that the roots of plants may extend themselves, and the air and the dews may exert their healthful influence upon them.

On dry sandy or gravelly soils the effect of barn yard or stable manures is soon lost. It was formerly contended that these soils were so porous the strength of the manure passed down. Evaporation probably had something to do in this matter. Where composts, of which muck is the principal ingredient, are used on such soils, the evil is remedied by its giving tenacity, and what is better, it yields its richness only as plants require it. Its effect is therefore more durable, as well as more strongly marked.

On loamy lands where clay forms an essential part, it restores an important quality lost by continued cropping, to wit, vegetable matter, which gives all new lands, in a great measure their fertility. On such lands its effect is visible twice as long as that of stable manure.

As a top-dressing for meadows, it performs a double service. Every farmer knows by his observations that the roots of grass, after one or two seasons, become exposed more or less above the surface. The frost heaves them, and the rains wash the loose soil away. Muck fills these vacant places with a durable protective power, and at the same time furnishes food for the plant. What untold wealth its use will give the farmer, and this at a cheap and independent rate!

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