

roots. This, in fact, involves one of the great principles of modern husbandry. A positively bad or over-wet climate may be almost entirely obviated, by providing for the free outlet for the fallen rain by means of draining and other operations. Much, indeed, may be done by art to give dryness to the soil and meliorate a naturally moist climate; and to this very important branch of husbandry we shall afterwards give that attention which the subject deserves.

In proportion as the land is cleared from forests and drained of its exuberant moisture, its climate becomes more regular, and moderated in its extremes of temperature. When a territory is shaded with a continuous canopy of trees, the leaves and branches intercept the beams of the sun in their passage downwards, and prevent them from communicating the heat felt in open situations. The superabundant moisture of the ground, as in morasses and stagnant ditches, not only rises in clouds and fogs to obscure the sky, but cools down the natural heat of the earth. No evaporation can take place without the loss of heat; and moist ground being continually under evaporation, its heat is continually flying off. For these reasons all uncleared countries in high latitudes possess extremely inclement winters, while their summers are short and intensely hot; but as soon as the masses of forests are extirpated, and the ground drained, a great change for the better is effected in their winter and summer weather; the winters become shorter and less cold, and the summer longer and less hot, a greater equability of fine weather being thus diffused throughout the year. The climate of Canada and other parts of North America is at present slowly undergoing this process of artificial improvement. In Britain, such a process has already been effected, and we now enjoy the blessings of a climate comparatively free of extremes of temperature, whether in the lingering cold of winter, or the short intense heats of summer, both of which are adverse to the interests of agriculture.

In those climates in which the frosts of winter are long and severe, as in Canada or Nova Scotia, a correspondingly large quantity of snow falls to shelter the ground. This is a fortunate compensatory arrangement in the scheme of nature, for without these deep snows, the whole vegetables on the ground would be destroyed. Frost, by expanding and rupturing the vessels in plants, destroys them as effectually as if they were scorched up by intense heat, and therefore a covering of snow is of the greatest use in the vegetable kingdom. It has been sometimes supposed that snow is a fertilizer of the soil, but this rests on no correct foundation. Snow is only valuable as a cover to the herbage, and a preventive to the escape of a certain degree of heat from the earth during the winter season. As the climate improves, it is less required for either of these purposes.

#### IS THE MANUFACTURE OF CIDER PROFITABLE AS A BUSINESS?

To the Editor of the Columbia Washingtonian.

My opinion is, that it would be for the interest of farmers to pay more attention to fruit—get good fruit—particularly the early harvest apple, both sweet and sour, they sell readily for cash in all our markets, and furnish fine food for hogs, beginning to fall, as they do, before our peas are fit to gather, and before they can be turned into stubble; then as to the fall apple, have a greater proportion of sweet apples; there are several noted species very fine for apple-sauce, and those are again sought after in market and readily sell for cash at fair prices, and what cannot be sold of those will again furnish fine food for hogs, and just at the time that our shoots have gathered the shucks of the stubble; then when we are disposing of all our apples to good advantage. Then comes the winter apples, those that are picked and barrelled can be transported to market after supplying our own wants and that of our neighbors, and then of those which are specked or bruised in falling let the farmer make cider, as it is not my wish to see anything wasted, nor would I commend cutting down apple trees unless they produced such miserable fruit as would make a pig squeal, and then if such are cut down let them be replaced with such fruit as I have stated, and let the cider be made and sold after it has become good vinegar, and my word for it you never will hear those having large orchards mourning over the loss of their market for cider; because they will make double out of their orchards on my total plan than they will on the old cider-caper plan of making all into cider.

OUR WIFE KNOWS.

#### BRIEF HINTS FOR NOVEMBER.

As the farmer's work is now generally completed, implements should be cleaned, dried, and laid aside. Every farmer should have a building for his carts, ploughs, harrows, hoes, rakes, &c. There should be a place for every thing, and every thing in its place, in order to prevent looking half a day at a time for lost tools. Tools will last much longer if painted, and now is a good time to do the work.

Wherever practicable, plough the ground for spring crops. Look ahead for next spring, or you will get in your seed too late.

Employ leisure time in repairing fences, to prevent hurry next season.

Preserve all your refuse apples for feeding hogs and cattle during winter. They are worth more than potatoes, as has been proved by experiment and weighing.

To salt pork properly, it is essential only to imbibe the pieces completely in salt. Place a layer of salt on the bottom, then a layer of pork in the usual manner, filling the interstices, and so on till the barrel is filled. Use plenty of salt, it will not be lost. Saltpetre, when used, should be in very small quantities, say a 400th part. Some add a small quantity of sugar.

To cure hams, mix a bushel of good salt with a pound of nitre, rub the hams well with the mixture, and put them down. Rub them again in a few days that they may absorb the salt more evenly. In about four weeks, (sooner, if the pieces are small) wash them and hang them up in the smoke house. The following mixture has been recommended as good for hams. One pound salt, one ounce nitre, pulverized and mixed, added to two quarts of molasses; the pieces are to be thoroughly rubbed with this and laid flesh side up, and sufficed to remain three weeks.

In the garden, a few vegetables remain to be gathered: cabbages should be taken up on a warm dry day, drained in an inverted position of such water as they contain, and properly protected from water and too great dryness, and from frost. They may be thus protected in various ways. One is to place them in a cellar, with the roots buried in a box of earth. Another is to place them in a row in a dry part of the garden, in an upright position the roots and stems buried, and then covering them with two broad boards or slabs in the form of a roof, and burying these with earth. Another is to separate the loose leaves, and bury them in a conical pile, precisely as turnips and potatoes are treated. When put in the cellar, they should be dry and clean, otherwise in warm weather they will cause unwholesome air.

Near the commencement of winter, lay down tender exotic grape vines, first placing a few stones on them to keep them down, until two or three inches of earth is thrown on the vines, when the stones are removed and the vacancies supplied with earth.

All tender shrubs need protection before winter. Flexible stems may be laid down; stiff upright ones may be protected by incasing them well with the branches of evergreens. All transplanted bulbous roots will also need protection.

Asparagus beds, when the tops are dead, should be cleared off, and a layer of dung one or two inches thick spread evenly over.

Seeds of parsnips, carrots, onions, &c. may be sown in autumn to advantage if done so late that they will not vegetate before cold weather. Early pease may be sown to great advantage, if there is no danger from mice. A writer on gardening says: "To cultivate parsnips, sow the seed in autumn soon after they are ripe, by which means the seed will come up early the following spring, and let the plants get strong before the weeds will grow to injure them."

All vacant ground should be ploughed or spaded, to be subjected to the action of winter frosts, and to be in readiness as early as possible in spring.

#### APPLES.

As apples are much more plentiful this season than usual, we hope our farmers will be wise enough to make the best possible use of them, and if those who suppose they are worth more for cider than anything else, will do as the writer of the following letter has done, they will doubtless change their opinion.

CLERMONT, COL. CO., Aug. 23, 1842.

MR. EDITOR.—Since my name has found its way into your paper, and the public wishing to know what to do with their apples, I think I can dispose of them in a better way than by making drinkable with them.