

*Manures.*—Neither is it our design to treat of the nature and properties of manures, and how they operate upon land, so as to produce better crops; whether by communicating to the soil the vegetable food which they contain—whether by enabling it to attract nourishment from the atmosphere—or by enlarging the vegetable pasture which it contains—or by dissolving that which the soil already contains, so as to prepare it for entering the roots of plants.—These are philosophical inquiries, not essentially connected with the present business. Upon this subject there are various theories—some of which are extremely rational, and others extremely absurd.

*Early sowing produces less straw than late sowing, and that in exact proportion to the times (cæteris paribus).*—The knowledge of this principle, which was not discovered, at least not attended to, till the close of the last century, is of much importance to the Farmer. Before it was known and practised, the hazard of sowing land in a very high state of cultivation was very great. Oats or barley sown in such condition at the usual period of seed-time as formerly—viz., oats late in March, and barley about the term of Whitsunday—would have been often entirely ruined by being too strong. English barley (commonly from Lincolnshire) and Dutch, and many other, early kinds of oats, were adopted without changing the time of sowing; and as these have a tendency to produce shorter straw, they were found of much advantage in securing a full crop without lodging. But it is found that any of our oats sown early produce a shorter and stiffer straw, which has the same effect. Early oats, however, are still much in vogue. The Lincoln barley is almost out of repute: it is well known to some Farmers that the common Scotch barley is the best substitute for it—as, when sown early, its straw becomes shorter, much stiffer, and less apt to lodge: Potato oats are a comparatively new species, and are said to be natives of South America. It appears they were first imported into some of our midland counties of Scotland, in a quantity extremely small; and that they obtained that name from the circumstances of their arriving in a package of *potatoes*. This is a valuable kind of oats in point of meal, yielding two or three pecks per boll more than the Angus, which, in every other respect, we reckon our best oats.—They appear to be again losing ground in the estimation of some people: they are more apt than any other kind to keep the soil, like wild oats, and thereby to annoy the succeeding crops. It seems to be apprehended that, were they to be frequently shaken and ploughed in dry, that they would be as great a weed too. They seem to have another disadvantage, which, in the present circumstances of our labor, is not a small one. They ripen along with the wheat; and that article being now more than ever the chief object of the Farmer, is in danger of occasioning very serious consequences as to the timeous cutting of that crop.—Potato oats are also extremely apt to shake, and seldom fail to drop in shearing. All kinds of early oats are fit only for fine land, or land in a high state of cultivation; but upon inferior land they are the best, when a bad season has thrown the seed time too far back for common ones. Blainslie oats are our native early and have a finer meal as well as finer straw; but they seem mostly out of favor at present. These several varieties of oats and barley afford the Farmer great advantages in securing his grass-seeds, as well as his corn crop, in certain seasons and situations.

As to spring wheat, the dwarf kind, which is known to produce short straw, and is also advantageous in the above circumstances; and as it has a natural tendency to produce short straw, and is also advantageous in the above circumstances; and as it has a natural tendency to produce short straw, it ought certainly upon rich soils to be preferred in winter.

*Picking out the best heads of the most approved grain, is the best method of preserving the species from degenerating.*—It must be evident to every one that