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THE MONTHLY

# FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE & SUCCEED

Vol. 2] DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. [No. 7

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London, August, 1867.

Postage Free.  
Office—Dawson & Bro., op. City Hall

### CLOVER AND MANURE.

It has been justly remarked that the red clover plant is the foundation of successful farming. The remark will apply to all portions of the country, except it be to the neighbourhood of cities where land is worth several hundred dollars per acre, and where stable manure may be obtained in abundance for the growth of garden crops, and other high-priced products. Agricultural chemists, as well as observing farmers, have given it as their opinion that the manure of animals fed on good clover hay, is worth five times as much per load as manure from straw-fed animals. Taking it as granted that the estimate is approximately correct, it is obvious that the turning under of a green crop, which produces such rich manure, must in itself add greatly to the fertility of the soil. If a ton of green clover is worth five times as much for fertilizing purposes as a ton of common yard manure, made by animals fed on straw or timothy hay, and with straw litter largely intermixed, then a good crop of clover might be rated in value about as follows: two tons of stalks and leaves, estimated, when converted to dry hay, would be equal to, at least, four tons of the green material; and half this amount in roots would be two tons more,—the whole, six tons, multiplied by five, to bring it to the standard of common manure, would show a heavy crop of clover to be worth thirty tons of ordinary yard manure. This estimate may not be strictly correct, and it cannot always be, as yard manure varies much in its value according to age,

amount of straw or cornstalks used, and mode of heaping or preserving. But let the estimate be varied so as to meet the differing circumstances, and it will still be seen that clover possesses eminent advantages. The influence which the roots possess in loosening and rendering mellow the heavy soils in which they grow, is one of great importance,—assisting as it does the diffusion of the manure of the leaves and stems through the soil, in the process of decay. Those who have been in the practice of working heavy or clay land can appreciate the great difference between the condition of an inverted sod, turned over like brick clay, when nothing but timothy or grass has grown upon it, and another sod, thoroughly loosened, and pulverized by the roots of clover, which have, everywhere, penetrated it through. The one is like clammy, unleavened bread; the other like the spongy texture of a well-raised loaf. It is in this way that clover may exert a beneficial influence, either in the ordinary processes of cultivation, or in favoring the intermixture of common manure through the soil, nearly as great as its enriching value.

Estimating the value of a good clover crop as equal to thirty loads of yard manure, cultivators may easily figure which will be the most economical in application, including the drawing and spreading. On hills, or on parts of large farms remote from stables, the balance will be found to be much in favour of the green crop. Every thrifty farmer manufactures and saves all the yard manure which he can; but in common mixed

husbandry it is insufficient, of itself, to keep up a high state of fertility in all the fields. A rotation, comprising the frequent turning under of a growing crop, becomes absolutely essential to a successful and profitable husbandry. Such a rotation will usually be found most advantageous if the crop is plowed under at two years of age. The plants will then have obtained full size. It may be cut for hay the first year, and if cured, without becoming wet, will not only make an excellent nutritive food for cattle and sheep, but the manure resulting from this feeding, as we have already remarked, will be of high value. Since the introduction of mowing machines, hay tedders, horse rakes, and horse forks, there is little necessity of allowing a crop of clover to become blackened and spoiled by rain.

During a recent visit to the nurseries at Geneva, N. Y., we had occasion to observe the great efficiency with which clover manuring was managed in preparing ground for planting trees. The comparatively small quantity of manure, furnished by the village, render the mode of enriching by clover an absolute necessity, and the excellent, healthy, and vigorous growth of the young trees proved its great value. The crop is plowed under when in full blossom; if done sooner, there is too much succulence and not enough substance; if later, the stems have become too hard and woody, and do not become so well pulverized in decay, nor diffused through the particles of the soil. Before plowing, the crop is well harrowed, which not only lays the plants flat on the ground, but draws them in the