

est animal") of an analogous character, to wit, a critic. In the *Cobourg Star* of the 7th inst.* "A Northumberland Farmer" has been pleased to publish "a bootless criticism" on my last communication, which criticism is somewhat equivocal, for whether it was intended to be complimentary or the reverse, "curso me if I can tell," as Tony Lumpkin says in the play; neither can I discover the wit, point or applicability of his illustrations in prose and verse. I admitted the utility of scientific investigation in Agricultural papers, but intimated that all theories should be intelligibly illustrated, (not precisely in the manner of "A Northumberland Farmer.") He asks if I could not have assigned other motives for the refusal of certain Farmers to take the *Newcastle Farmer*, than those which I stated?—Whether I could or could not is of no consequence, I merely related that which had actually been declared to be the motive of an intelligent farmer. My critic may be in the habit of speculating on motives and reasons,—I am not. Does he mean his alleged opinion relative to the disposition of a "genuwyne Yankee" to be ironical, or were his observations on the subject the result of ignorance? I will venture to say that I have wintered and summered the Yankees more years than he has passed consecutive days in the United States. I know their failings and their virtues, (the latter of which, it pleases me to say, greatly preponderate,) as well as they do themselves, perhaps better, for I am a more disinterested and impartial judge; and I confidently assert that a more vain and "thin-skinned" nation (vanity and sensitiveness always co-exist,) cannot be found in the civilised world! Some of their own most celebrated authors have ridiculed these "national weaknesses." But I am becoming as "lengthy" as my critic, and will close my observations on his epistle by hinting that such controversial correspondence as his is not the sort of discussion that is calculated to promote the interests of either the readers or the proprietor of the *Newcastle Farmer*. Who, that has been reluctantly induced to impart the results of his experience, in hopes of benefiting others, will continue to do so, if he thereby render himself liable to dull or querulous criticism? Antagonistic discussion properly conducted, is most desirable, to elicit truth and determine that which is doubtful, but petulant controversy is worse than useless.

I will now prescribe a remedy for that pest, the *field and garden cut-worm*. Scores of recipes for the annoyance and destruction thereof, have been recommended as infallible; some of which are too tedious in their application for general practice, others of no efficacy, and but one of them really effectual, namely, that which recommends that the felon should be sought where he has left destructive marks of his

* Why not send his lucubration to the *Newcastle Farmer*, in which my letter appeared? "I guess" he had his reasons, good or bad.

"whereabouts," caught, and killed; but even to this there is a serious objection, besides its tediousness, for although you catch and execute the thief, you cannot recover the stolen property; if my house were destroyed by an incendiary, his conviction and execution would be but a poor compensation for the loss which I had suffered. I had often tried a mixture of lime and ashes without success, and at length resolved to test the efficacy of that much praised remedy by experiment; having captured three of the felons, I placed them in a large saucer and covered them with earth mixed with more than a third of its quantity of lime recently slaked, and ashes; on visiting them two hours afterwards I found they had all absconded, but two of them, whose backs were whitened by the lime, were retaken and again consigned to the saucer. A piece of gauze was now tied tightly over their prison, so that escape was impossible; two young cabbage plants, as it was near feeding time, were given them for supper; of these, it appeared next morning they had heartily partaken; on being examined, they appeared healthy and lively as when first taken! Soot, ashes, and lime, have about as much effect in destroying the turnip fly, the *dicta* of theorists to the contrary notwithstanding. Flower of sulphur will protect the leaves of cucumbers, "*et id genus omne*," from bugs; is then the *cut-worm* indestructible? No; it may be destroyed easily and certainly. A few years ago, wishing to have a cucumber for supper, I took a candle, the night being perfectly calm, and proceeded to my hot-bed; on passing a bed of cauliflowers recently planted, I discovered on their leaves and on the ground as pretty a collection of cut-worms as any horticulturist would wish not to see. I cut my cucumber, sent for my gardener, told him what I had seen, and instructed him to take a bright light and a tin mug, and capture all the depredators he could discover; in less than an hour he returned, having collected in the mug three hundred and ninety four felon worms; the next night he took ninety, on the following night less than fifty, and on the fifth he could not find one. Although I previously had nearly half my plants annually destroyed, I never, after this clearance, lost half a dozen. The thieves were chiefly found upon the leaves and circumjacent ground, but some were arrested *in transitu* from one bed to another. They were plainly visible, and easily taken. A bright light and calm weather are, however, indispensable; from ten to eleven o'clock at night is the fittest time for the sport. I do not claim to be the inventor of this remedy; it is so simple and so obvious that, most probably, others have discovered and applied it.

In regard to other horticultural nuisances, I will only add that coarse aloes, dissolved in about ten times their weight of soft water, mixed with sufficient lime and clay, so as to be about the thickness of cream or paint, will, if applied to the

stems of fruit trees at the beginning of winter, effectually protect them from the attacks of field mice.

I will now relate the result of an experiment, carefully tried, two years ago. Early in May I dug ("Qui facit per aliam facit per se.") a piece of ground which had the preceding year grown cauliflowers, and been well manured; having a quantity of sound long red potatoes, I planted them in rows of precisely the same length as follows: No. 1 was planted with the tops or ends furthest from their junction with the parent stems; No. 2 with the middles; No. 3 with the root ends; and No. 4 with whole potatoes. All were set in the rows twelve inches from each other, and their treatment while growing was the same. They were taken up in October, and the produce of each row carefully weighed.

Result.—No. 1 yielded 84 lbs.; No. 2 74 lbs.; No. 3, 70 lbs.; and No. 4, 74 lbs. The superiority of No. 1 was apparent while growing. The whole was a good, but not an extraordinary crop, being at the rate of 300 bushels per acre.

Yours, &c.

AN EX-FARMER.

To the Editor of the *Newcastle Farmer*.

Cavan, April 8th, 1847.

Dear Sir,—In this section of the country, owing to the character of the soil or a defect in its preparation, winter-sown Wheat does not usually succeed; and the chances of failure from freezing out is so great, as to render the attempt of Fall sowing wheat, of doubtful propriety; and I therefore find the culture of summer wheat of the first importance, and fortunately, when conducted in a proper manner, rarely fails of a handsome remuneration for the labour of the farmer; and even where winter wheat succeeds well, circumstances may render it desirable to grow more grain than can be sown in the Fall, when a few acres in summer wheat will prove a profitable crop. Spring wheat requires that the soil should be in good condition, clean or free from weeds, and hence succeeds generally better after root or hoed crops than on freshly manured lands. Recent manuring, unless with thoroughly decomposed matters, is injurious, as giving too rank a growth to the straw, causing it to lodge or fall, and preventing the filling of the kernel. In the culture of this crop, I have succeeded best with grain sown early; it gets its growth before the intense heats of summer come on,—it is not so liable to fall,—and what is of still more consequence, the berry will be fuller and heavier, and the yield greater than if the sowing was longer delayed. Where the wheat-worm has infected this crop, very early or late sowing has been found one of the most effectual preventives. Sown as early as practicable after the frost is out of the ground will do for Siberian, and on or about the middle of May for Black Sea Wheat,—in the former case, the insect not appearing until the proper state of