

from another. Henry accordingly let go of the dipper, though he did it very reluctantly, saying.

"Why, Miss Mary said I might be dipper-master. You have no right to take it away," said he to Dovey, who went on drinking, and eyeing Henry over the edge of the dipper.

"Yes I have," said Dovey, stopping to take breath. "I have a right to drink whenever I have got a mind to." She then drank a little again.

"You said just now, before we came down, that you did not want any water," said one of the girls gently.

"Well, there, take your water," said Dovey; and she threw what was left in the dipper over the children, and turned round and ran, carrying the dipper away with her.

The children cried, "Oh what a shame," and brushed the water off of each other's clothes, and wiped their faces. Then they began to walk slowly towards the house, and when they came out of the woods they saw Dovey swinging upon the back gate with the dipper in her hand.

"There; she is swinging upon the gate," said one of the girls. "Perhaps, however," said Lucy, "she does not know it is against the rules."

"Dovey," said Henry, aloud, as soon as they got within hearing, "give me the dipper; I must carry it back into the kitchen."

Dovey did not answer; she went on swinging back and forth upon the gate.

"Come, Dovey, give it to me," repeated Henry, holding out his hand and advancing towards her. But Dovey was, unfortunately, not one of those girls who easily give up when they are being wrong. She jumped off the gate, passed through, and then shut and fastened it, with the hasp, and held it, as if she was not going to let them come through.

Just then the bell rang for the end of the recess; and the children began to be very uneasy. One very little girl began to cry, Lucy told her not to cry, for she said that Miss Mary would not blame them for being late, when she knew all about it.

"But how shall we get back at all?" said the little girl.

"Oh, Miss Mary will come down pretty soon, to see where we are," said Lucy.

As soon as Dovey heard this, she knew that it would not be safe for her to stay there any longer, so she let go the gate, threw the dipper away over into the garden as far as she could throw it, and ran off towards the school-room.

The children then unfastened the gate, and all passed through and walked along. They stopped a minute while Rolo, picked up Dovey's bonnet, which was lying by the side of the path, upon the grass, and then they all went into the school-room.

AGRICULTURE.

Importance of Sowing Good Seed.

Great efforts have been made in Britain to improve roots and grain by a choice of the best descriptions of seeds of every species. This is a matter of great importance in agriculture, and very much neglected in Canada. Grain and other seeds are frequently mixed with seeds of weeds, and also different varieties of the same species are mixed. We have seen as much as five or six varieties of wheat growing mixed in the same field. It must deteriorate the sample, and lessen the value of the crop to the farmer to have it thus mixed.

The *Mark Lane Express* of the 8th April has the following observations on the subject; they are very much to the purpose:—

"Numerous recorded experiments prove, not only that some particular kind of crops, both grain and roots, are better adapted to one description of soil than another, but also that a very great difference exists in the prolific qualities of grain, and root seeds, in which there is not sufficient distinction between others of the same kind as to warrant their being styled different varieties. In fact, if quality and quantity be considered, there will be found to be a vast difference between the produce of two different samples of seed or grain, in which there is no perceptible difference to the eye. This admitted, and it will not be denied by practical farmers, how vastly important, not only to the inexperienced, but to the experienced agriculturist, to be enabled to rely with confidence on the parties from whom he purchases his seed! We believe there is no department connected with agriculture in which

so much charlatanism is practiced as in the puffing off and sale of every description of seed; not even in horse-jockeying."

It is vain to clear the land in preparing it for a crop, if we sow the seeds of weeds with the grain we wish to cultivate. There is nothing more unprofitable and discreditable to Canadian agriculture, than the weeds that are allowed to prevail to so great an extent, in crops, in pastures, and in waste places. Weeds may, no doubt, be converted into manure, but so might other plants that would grow instead of weeds. If what the earth produces was returned to it again, after it has served for food for man and other animals, the lands might be kept in a state of constant fertility. The Creator has so ordered things as to have it in the power of man to keep up the fertility of the land from its own productions, if judiciously managed. Land will not of course bear to be robbed of all its produce year after year, without making adequate returns to it in the shape of manure, summer fallow, or rest. The earth is bountiful of her gifts, but she cannot be always giving without receiving. We believe a farm under good management—a due proportion in tillage, meadow, pasture, and a proper rotation of crops established upon it, might be maintained in sufficient fertility, and be constantly improving, provided a due proportion of stock was kept upon it. A great help of manure may be obtained by forming compost heaps for top-dressing grain and meadow. Top-dressing grain, or harrowing in short manure with the seed is a good plan, but it is not always possible to cart manure upon the soil at the particular time it is required in spring. We believe a load of short manure, or compost, will produce more good applied as top-dressing, to a young crop of grain or meadow, than it would in any other way. It is put near the roots of the plants, and is washed into the surface of the soil, where it appears to be most suitably placed to supply nutriment to the plants. It is by practical experience that we can ascertain the best mode of applying manure. For the permanent improvement of land it is best to plough in manure, but for a crop of grain and the succeeding crop of hay, top-dressing will produce the greatest amount of effect.—*Canadian Agricultural Journal*.

COW AND SHEEP PASTURES.—Cows and sheep should never be permitted to run in the same pasture; as the latter are astute early in the morning, they generally get their appetites appeased before the cows and other animals that share the pasture with them, are turned in, and usually destroy much more feed than is required to support them, as most animals refuse to eat where a sheep has lain or even trod!

DUTCH BUTTER.—The Dutch butter is celebrated for its excellence. The following is said to be the mode in which it is prepared:—After having milked their cows, the Dutch leave their milk to get quite cold before they put it into the pans. When placed therein, they do not permit it to stand for the cream to rise more than about 4 hours. They then stir it together more intimately to combine the milk and cream, and continue thus to do two or three times a day. If it be agitated in this manner, as occasionally happens, till the whole be quite thick, the butter thus obtained is the more highly esteemed. As soon as it acquires the usual consistency, it is churned commonly about an hour, till the butter begins to form; cold water is then added, proportioned to the quantity of milk, for the purpose of facilitating the separation of the butter-milk. The butter being properly come, it is taken from the churn, and repeatedly washed, and kneaded in fresh water, till the buttermilk is all expressed, and it no longer retains anything of white. By this simple mode, not only far more butter is obtained from the same quantity of milk, than in any other way; but the butter itself is firmer, sweeter, and continues longer fresh than the generality of butter; while the buttermilk is infinitely more agreeable to the palate.—*Boston Mercantile Journal*.

CULTURE OF STRAWBERRIES.—The crop may be doubled by placing a rail of about six inches in breadth along each side of the row of Strawberries, with a few pins to keep them upright through the season. They are put up in the spring, and the bushes crawl over them and preserve the berries from falling close to the ground.

ROOTS.—If any one will carefully study the habits of the rook, he will cease to persecute him. Just watch him in a field of newly sown wheat, and he will be found digging at the root of the sickly plant not for the seed, but the grub or larvæ of some earth caterpillar. See him again examining the grass and clover fields for insects. "The farmer's busy time," says an accomplished author, "is the rook's busy time; they feel that the farmer is as necessary to their present profit, as they are to his future; or they act as if they felt so, which, in effect, comes to the same thing. If he will not bring