

## NEGLIGENCE AND ERRORS IN AGRICULTURE.

I believe farmers lose as much by negligence as by bad cultivation. Let me illustrate: Whenever I hear a man complain that his grounds are overrun with thistles, with ox-eye daisy, wild carrot, chess nut grass, &c. &c., I at once say to him, there was a time, and that not long ago, when you might have prevented this evil with five minutes labor. When you first saw that villainous plant on your land, there were but one or two, or half a dozen, and you could have destroyed them with a dock extractor or hoe in a few minutes, but you neglected the opportunity. In all your walks over your farm, let the staff in your hand be a well constructed weed-hook; you can walk as well and protect yourself as well with such a staff or cane as with any other. Now this is the way to rid yourself of all noxious weeds, or rather to prevent their formidable appearance. Begin at the beginning, with these pests, or any thing else. Put a new rail in that panel, in place of that rotten one yonder; do it now, don't wait till the broken rail invites some stray animal to leap into your corn field, and in doing so breaks half a dozen other rails. Take a spade and drain off that pool of standing water in your wheat field yonder, and as you go along, cut off that summer sprout or young shoot that is just starting from the limb of that apple tree, that favorite tree of yours, and mind, hereafter, don't let such things grow on any of your trees. Take a small spade and dig up all, every one of those butter cups, (*Ranunculus bulbosa*.) in your cow and sheep pastures, and as soon as you see a single plant of that poisonous plant hereafter, destroy it instantly. Don't you know it is one of the most deadly poisons to cattle and sheep that can be found? It does not kill, it is true, at once; but it is a slow poison, and ultimately kills any ordinary animal that eats it; besides, it poisons the milk of cows, and is supposed to be the cause of the "milk sickness" of the west.

Errors in farming or agriculture, as are numerous as instances of negligence, and even as deleterious. That was a capital error of yours, sir, in supposing that because you had a thin soil, with a clay substratum, you must not plough deep. Why, my dear sir, if ten years ago you had begun to plough deep, you would, at this time, have had a deep soil instead of this thin skin that is made still thinner every time you scratch it. Plough deeply, as deep as you can, every time you plough, and in a few years you will have no reason to complain of short crops from drought, or of winter killing from hard winters, nor of short crops from any thing else. Don't try too much of it! Try all new things in a small way. If you had tried but one acre of that new spring wheat, and kept trying one acre till you found it to be, or not to be, what it was cracked up to be, you would not now be complaining of loss by experiments.

Errors in judgment are so numerous, so universal, that it is difficult to point out examples; there are so many of equal importance, that we can hardly choose which to take; but that farmer yonder who throws his stable manure out of the window of his stable, on the side of the hill, and allows it to remain there from month to month, to be washed by every rain, and bleached by every day of sunshine, commits not a greater error than he who purchases manure at a distance, employs teams and hands to haul it to the farm, all at a heavy expense, and at the same time overlooks, or omits to avail himself of the numerous sources of manure that are staring him in the face every hour of his life on his own premises. "My father killed

his corn, and made good crops," says one; forgetting, as it would seem, that his father's land was new, and could "stand any thing." "I have the tallest corn, and will have the greatest crop of any in these parts," said a Saratoga county farmer who had obtained some seed of the tall southern corn, in a tour last year to the south, forgetting, or not having recollected, that corn that may make a good crop in the south, will not necessarily do so in the north, until the first of October nipped all his prospects in the milk. He had not duly considered that plants have their climates as all things have their seasons.

But I must bring my discourse to a close, and will do so by a summary illustrative corollary: Two white millers, or moths, entered the gardens of two citizens, in the spring; one, of course, in each. The owner of each garden was present, and each saw the little creatures. One of the citizens instantly caught and killed the insect; the other allowed it to pass on, paying no attention to it. In mid-summer, the garden of the first citizen was free from caterpillars; that of the other was completely denuded of foliage, with bugs and offensive insects on every shrub and plant. "Why," says the latter to the former, "how happens it that you have no caterpillars, while my garden is devoured by them?" "I killed the first miller," says the former, "you let it live, lay its 500 eggs, which in two weeks turned out 500 caterpillars, and they in their turn, in a few weeks, each 500 more, and so on till you have your millions of insects, and I have none."—*Albany Cultivator*.

**GUANO.**—The following article contains some information respecting the mode of applying this manure, which may be of service to readers at the present time.

"In the latter end of December, 1842, I ploughed a lea-field, and sowed it with wheat and in the month of May following, it looked stunted and bad. At this period I sowed over it Guano at the rate of two cwt. to the acre, and in fourteen days an entire change had taken place, the wheat looking green instead of yellow. It continued for some time to improve, and every little place that was missed in the manuring, was seen from the opposite hill; and I am sure, from the application of this manure (costing about 30s.) the crop was improved full thirty per cent. Guano had the same effect on barley on a light soil, and a piece of Oats on a stiff clay soil. In the second week of May last, I tried it in a field of Grass, using three cwt. per acre against forty tons of Devonport Dung; and I can be positive in stating, that the part on which the Guano was used, produced a far better crop of Grass than where the dung was used. I have found guano very useful as a liquid manure. I have dissolved it in spring water at the rate of 1lb. guano to three gallons, for 24 hours, which has produced a fine piece of grass; but the best and most convenient plan is (where persons possess tanks for containing the liquid manure from the stables, &c.) to put it in the tank, about 1lb. guano to 8 gallons of water. This I found produce a most excellent crop of grass, which was in six weeks sufficiently high to mow. I likewise sowed a field of white turnips, one part with dung, the other with guano, two cwt. per acre. The guano produced a much better crop than the dunged part, which was allowed to be the case by several farmers who saw the field." William May, Saltash.

**CURE FOR LOCKED JAW IN HORSES.**—It is said that pouring water along the back from a watering pot, for a considerable time without intermission, will effect a cure.