

## AGRICULTURAL.

## IRISH HUSBANDRY.

## PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

The soil with anxious skill prepare,  
Or 'twill not recompense your care,  
But with pernicious weeds be fraught,  
Like mind neglected and untaught.

I SHALL now tell you how to prepare your land for cropping. The treatment must, in a great measure depend upon the nature of the soil; if it be stiff and wet while it is in course of tillage, rib it up carefully in winter, and keep the furrows clear; if the land have a sudden fall, these furrows should be run in a slanting direction, in order to prevent manure and earthy substances from being washed to the bottom by heavy rains. Clay land, if not treated in this way during the winter months, becomes hard and stiff in the month of March, or (if the weather then be wet) like mortar; in either case unfit for working: besides, in the succeeding summer, such land, (from the previous neglect of ribbing, which would have loosened and pulverised the soil,) splits and exposes to the sun those tender roots and fibres which ought to be sheltered from it. Even if your land be light and dry, you should treat it as above, in order to preserve the manuring principles. In very small farms there is no excuse for neglect of this practice, particularly if the owner have two or three healthy sons.

Every one must be sensible that the practice of the garden is much better than that of the field, only a little more expensive: but this extra cost is scarcely felt by the small holder, who performs the work with his own family, (who might otherwise be idle), and the increased value of his crops, and the improvement of his soil, will greatly repay the labour.

Strong clay land, if not properly loosened by spade or plough, besides preventing the vegetable roots from shooting out freely, renders the genial warmth of spring from reaching those roots as it would in open soil; the cold rains too, as well as warm air of April and May, should have a free passage to the roots, which are, as it were, so many mouths through which the plants suck in their nourishment.

Loose gravelly or shingly soils are also improved by deep digging; though for a different reason; the bringing up of heavy clay, and mixing it through the upper surface, gives solidity to the whole, and prevents moisture and manure from escaping too fast.

In treating of the preparation of the soil, ploughing is to be considered, although I write more for the cotinger, who should use spade and shovel in preference. The best ploughing is that which comes nearest to trenching, which exposes the greatest quantity of fresh surface; and the best plough is that which is most easily drawn. As to the depth, four inches may be considered light, six inches middling, and nine inches deep ploughing. In general, the poor man's field is only scratched; fresh mould is rarely brought up; and this, as I have already hinted is very important, in light soils, in which the essence of the manure is filtered downwards; it is therefore necessary, to bring it into action, by mixing the under with the upper soil.

Lea should be ploughed almost always for oats in the first instance. The soil should be so laid as to form an angle of 45 degrees; the harrowing covers the seed in the spaces between the furrow slices, and it comes up regularly in narrow drills.

When fallowing is resorted to, you should consider what your object is, which should be to clear the ground from weeds, to mix top, middle, and bottom together, and to loosen the clay; (for on clay lands alone should fallowing be thought of; and even on these only in case of

previous bad tillage and bad rotations,) therefore, as is the practice in Scotland, you should give four or five good ploughings, besides frequent harrowings whenever weeds appear; and afterwards, if possible, you should manure for your wheat.

Fields intended for summer fallows should be turned up in the preceding autumn, immediately after removing the crop, at which time also all stubbles should be turned in, and (after lying free from water during the winter, and while spring work is going on) ploughed during the succeeding summer, in the manner I have recommended. By such a fallow, weeds and insects are destroyed, and a single horse, with a common Irish plough, can open drills for the wheat with perfect ease; and all the succeeding crops will be clean. Now, my good friends have any of you ever seen such a fallow?—Believe me, it is much better than giving two scratchings, and turning cows, calves, horses, mules, asses, and pigs, to cut down the thistles, rag weed, docks, &c. &c., which should never be suffered to grow at all.

[From the New England Farmer.]

## CULTURE OF THE POTATOE ONION.

The Potatoe Onion is of a more mild quality than those grown from seed, and is highly esteemed in the culinary department in which it would no doubt, if more generally cultivated be much used. It is to be regretted that so valuable an article is not more extensively cultivated, which I imagine is owing chiefly to a wrong mode of culture being applied. The onion is in many cases nearly lost at first planting, owing to its being planted too deep in the ground; and in others by its being earthed like a potatoe; many persons supposing it requires the same treatment as that vegetable. However, the idea is wrong, as the bulb requires to be on the surface of the ground.

The best method that I can recommend, and one which I think will be found to answer, in order to grow the onion to good perfection, is to manure and prepare a rich piece of ground, as early in the spring as the ground will admit of being worked, by digging it deeply; then raking the surface even and dividing the ground into four feet beds and eighteen inch alleys. This being done, divide the beds across into rows. The planting must be done by simply pressing down the bulb into the ground on the surface, in such a manner that the crown or top is level with the surface of the bed.

The after management is simply to keep the beds clean; but care must be taken not to disturb the earth about the onions until they have rooted firmly in the ground.

When the onions are ripe they are to be taken up and dried in the usual way.

From the Novascotian

## NOBLE CONDUCT OF AN AMERICAN CAPTAIN

Her Majesty's Ship Hercules,  
Halifax Harbour, 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1830

Mr. Howe,

Sir,—May I beg the favor of your giving insertion to the following statement:—

On our passage from England to this port, when in latitude 42° N and longitude 32° W, we observed a sail haul up for us, apparently with the intention of speaking the Ship. I immediately closed with her, and found it to be the American ship "Commerce," of and from Charleston, bound to Liverpool, commanded by Captain Perry, and that his object in communicating with us was to receive on board part of the crew of the "Elizabeth Caroline," of St. Stephens New Brunswick, which vessel he had met, dismantled and waterlogged, in latitude 39° N and longitude 45° W, and had taken all the crew off the wreck six days previously.

These unfortunate persons had been 23 days on the forecastle of their vessel, lashed to the windlass, exposed to every sea, with barely sufficient food to sustain life, and all the water they had remaining was

but two gallons, when the "Commerce" fell in with her.

My motive in detailing to you these particulars, is, principally to express my admiration, and that of all those under my command, at the generous and humane conduct of Captain Perry, as it has been made known to us by the men lately belonging to the "Elizabeth Caroline."

It appears that the "Commerce" fell in with this wreck by the merest chance, at about half past nine at night, on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, and that on hearing the cries of the crew, the "Commerce" instantly shortened sail, wore round, and went close alongside of the waterlogged vessel—Captain Perry hailing them in these cheering words, as the men themselves have represented:—"Keep up your hearts, boys, there is too much sea to board you now, but I will never leave you till I take you all off," and through night he twice or thrice passed round them, repeating those consoling words, and offering to veer to them water and provisions if they were in want of either.

Those generous assurances this brave sailor rigidly fulfilled, and after perseveringly keeping close to the vessel for two nights and a day, blowing very hard all the time, he at length succeeded in getting all the people out of her into the "Commerce," where he clothed them, and treated them with a kindness, which, as they gratefully say, they never can forget, or will cease to acknowledge.

In thus making known the exemplary conduct of Captain Perry, it is with sorrow I have to draw a disgraceful contrast on the part of a vessel, barque rigged, which, on the very morning of the day that the "Commerce" fell in with the "Elizabeth Caroline," hauled up within three miles of the wreck, and took in her studding sails, yet, though the weather was then fine, she bore up again to the eastward, without offering the slightest assistance, her object thus evidently seeming to have been only plunder; and that, on discovering living persons on board of the "Elizabeth Caroline," which would have rendered this design abortive, she at once abandoned them all to their fate.

For the honor of the two nations, it is to be hoped that those who acted thus inhumanly, did not belong to either England or America, though the crew of the shipwrecked vessel, I regret to say, believe her to be English, but, to whatever country she may belong, I trust her name, and that of her unfeeling master, will be brought to light, in order that the man who could act so heartless, so cruel a part, may be held up to the execration of mankind, and thus receive the punishment which he so well deserves.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

J. TOUR NICOLAS,

Captain H. M. S. Hercules.

P. S.—I may add, that with a view of showing our admiration of the noble conduct of Captain Perry, in staying so long and so perseveringly in a gale of wind, by the wreck of the "Elizabeth Caroline," the Officers of the "Hercules," and myself, together with Major Escoffort of the 43<sup>d</sup> Regiment, and the Officers of the detachments of the 15<sup>th</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, 66<sup>th</sup>, and 55<sup>th</sup> Regiments, taking a passage in this Ship from England, have made a subscription for a piece of Plate, which we mean to present to this worthy American Captain, as a lasting memorial of the generous deed which he performed. J. T. N.

THE BOUNDARY LINE QUESTION is about to be taken up in earnest in Great Britain and the United States. The former has informed the latter that she "desires the revision of the frontier between her North American dominions and those of the United States, not with any view to an acquisition of territory, as such, but for the purpose of securing her possessions, and preventing further disputes." "And such a variation of the line of frontier as may secure a direct communication between Quebec and Halifax."

Though the State authorities of Maine resist any settlement which does not give them all the land in dispute—the St. John Courier says, it has at length, we believe, been agreed upon by the British and American Governments to abide by a conventional line, to be run in accordance with the Preamble of the Treaty of Ghent—namely, a line that will be for the mutual advantage of both parties—Novascotian.

THE NEUTRALITY ACT has at length received the Assent of the President. It gives ample power to all officers of the United States, to interfere and seize munitions of war, and suppress combinations intended to disturb the peace of neighbouring countries.—Jb.

A report prevailed at Singapore, on the 25<sup>th</sup> Oct., that the Bencoes had commenced hostilities with the British.—Jb.