



FACTS FOR THE FARMER.

FACTS FOR THE GARDEN AND THE FARM.

"THE SUMMER DROUGHT." HOW TO RENDER IT HARMLESS.

After the long period of dry weather, with which we have latterly been visited during summer, how sad and disheartening is the appearance of gardens in general. In May and June, every plant and shrub and vegetable grows vigorously and gives prodigious promise of good things to come—but then—July appears, no rain falls for a period of from four to eight weeks, and the whole scene changes. Growth is arrested, the flowers fall, the plants wilt—the fruits upon the trees become stationary; and dismayed, and disgusted too often, we feel that there is no remedy. But is it so? Is there no easy and cheap and therefore practicable mode of overcoming or neutralizing the disastrous effects of these parching and exhausting periods? There is. Experience, the sternest and most reliable of all instructors, has taught us, that there is within the reach of most people who delight in the cultivation of the earth a method by which they may in a good degree secure their trees and plants flowers and vegetables an unchecked growth. Nor is it a method at all new—it has been urged, and argued again and again, without however having been generally adopted. It is neither more nor less than having a good *depth* of soil. The depth should be not less than two feet, better three or four. In Britain where the solar influences do not begin to pierce the earth, so deep as they do here, gardens are often dug to the depth of four feet. If desirable *there*, how much more here! But in a soil *two* feet deep vegetation will rarely suffer even here from dry weather. And this necessity of deepening and stirring the soil has been urged till all are familiar with it, still it is rarely practised, and for this reason people do not feel or cannot imagine that it will effect what it

is often said to do. So great is our summer heat, and of so long continuance that could we but secure sufficient moisture for the plants, the increase would equal even tropical productions in vigour, as is evident from what is attained in cold graperies where a constant moistness is kept on the leaves and roots. Now there are situations where water in abundance is at hand, and where by the aid of cheap and simple structures, moved wholly by wind, it may be thrown over all the garden at pleasure. To those who are so fortunately placed we earnestly commend the use of these machines, for well we know that they would be most surprised and gratified by the unceasing vigour and vastly increased productive powers of fruit-tree and vegetable. But to the *many* who have not copious streams or deep bays or lakes at hand, nor unfailing springs nor wells we say, trench or subsoil with spade or plough not less than two feet deep, and even you may rejoice though the showers fall not, and no kindly clouds soften old Sol's rays.

It is not often denied or doubted that clay soils stand in great need of being thus dealt with. Their strong tendency to baking like brick in a long dry time is too evident, but it is both doubted and denied that it would be beneficial to land of an opposite texture. Sandy land, it is said, is already too porous, and loosening the subsoil will but increase the evil. This was the doctrine of all the agricultural writers, we ever read so we assented to its truth—and consequently every season had the mortification of seeing the garden burnt up, and our efforts nearly fruitless. We now however feel sure of another and different result in future, for accidentally we have discovered that in a sandy soil, with a loose gravelly substratum, trenching will serve as effectually as in heavy soils. And for the benefit of those whose garden soil is like our own we will describe the accident or experiment, call it which