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TOWNSHIP OF YORK FARMERS' CLUB.

ESSAY ON MANURES.

At a meeting of the Club, held on Wednesday, the 6th of December, at Daw's Hotel, on the Kingston road, Mr. WILLIAM LEA read the following Essay on Manures:—

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—At the request of several members of our Club, I have endeavored to produce an essay on some parts of practical agriculture, and I am not without the hope that it contains matter worthy of your best attention. My own information on chemical subjects is too limited to admit of my advancing any doctrine not supported by the highest authorities. The efforts I have made to produce this essay have been useful to myself; for nothing is more calculated to make us *learners* than the effort to become teachers. The subject of manures is of paramount importance to the farmer. He may drain, plough, harrow, sow, may proceed on the most approved principles; but unless he make to the soil an adequate return in manure, for that which he takes from it in the form of crops, he will discover to his cost that, in omitting to manure his land, he has been violating a fundamental law in agriculture, and that his former profits will not compensate him for the injury which he has been inflicting on his land, and the losses which such omission, or mistake, cannot fail to entail upon him.

Of so little value was manure to the early settlers in some parts of Canada, that we are informed that farmers were in the habit of removing,

by the assistance of their neighbors, their out-buildings from amidst the accumulation of manure that in a few years had grown about them—such a proceeding being deemed less troublesome and expensive than that of carting away the valueless and offensive matter,—and such was the fertility of the soil around them, that we cease to feel astonished that, when farmers were forced to remove their manure, it was in many cases deposited on the ice, that it might, when a thaw came, be swallowed up by the deep water. But these days have passed away, and the enlightened cultivator of the soil has discovered that no land, however fertile and vigorous, will long continue to bear the drain of successive crops, but that Mother Earth, justly called Nature's best Bank, must have her vault replenished by deposits of nutriment proportionate to that which she has yielded. But, though manure is no longer regarded as a valueless obstruction, still it is in but too many cases deprived of much of its value by the waste to which it is subjected, and it is to such waste that I beg leave to call your attention, in the hope that what I have to say on the subject may not be without value to some one or two at least of my auditors.

The waste to which I allude is of two kinds; first, general; next, local. By general waste is implied the loss of the fluid which rich manures yield so freely—loss which results either from its being drained off and suffered to ooze away in sundry small channels into hollows, and places where it can be of no use; and, secondly, by the gradual evaporation of these juices, from inattention, and the want of a proper place for the deposit of manure. Now, it has been clearly