

ploughed with a team of four horses; and better still with two teams of two horses, one plough without a mould-board following the other. It is also said, that the stiff clay is rendered friable by the winter frost, and that grubs and other destructive insects are destroyed by exposure to the frosts. In corroboration of this opinion, a neighbour of mine, a Welsh farmer, tells me that he has a field, on some acres of which the crop was always destroyed by the grub, till he ploughed in the fall, and that where he does, it is not injured. It is also said, that the land so turned up gains more by absorption than it loses by evaporation, and finally that the time for spring sowing is so short, that it would be well to plough as much as possible in the fall, if the exposure did no injury—as it would greatly advance the spring operations. I am but a poor judge myself, either practically or theoretically, and would therefore be obliged by your opinion on this subject; and hope that some of your intelligent practical agricultural subscribers may consider the subject well in all its bearings, and favour your readers with their opinions.

C. J. B.

Toronto Gore, Dec. 15, 1848.

[We hope some of our agricultural readers will give our correspondent the benefit of their experience in reference to the subjects embraced by his inquiry. It is only by comparing a large number of well-ascertained facts, as they have been found to exist under diversified circumstances of climate and soil, that general principles can be safely drawn on practical agriculture. We shall be happy at all times to register the observations and experience of our correspondents in all portions of this province; and it is in this way principally that an agricultural periodical can be beneficially sustained. Without going at large into the subject at present, we may just observe, that considering the frequent lateness of the spring in this country, and the short period for sowing, it is desirable that autumn ploughing should not be neglected. Some soils will of course afterwards consolidate, but even such, we should imagine, must have received some benefit from the previous ploughing. We think there is no reason whatever to fear that the soil can sustain any injury from exposure to the action of frost, rain and air, but on the contrary, must be materially benefitted. Such exposure induces several important changes, both chemical and mechanical. Our correspondent, we think, will experience the benefit of his deep fall ploughing in his spring crops. Ploughed land should be left in as rough a state as possible through the winter, and well water-furrowed. If it be too much consolidated in spring to obtain a sufficiently fine and deep tilth by common harrowing, the only alternative is another ploughing, or what would answer equally well, the employment of an efficient cultivator. Again we say to our readers, send us an account of your various practices, and the results of your individual experience. We hope some of

our horticultural friends will attend to our correspondent's inquiry respecting the management of asparagus.]

FARMING A TRADE.—Farming, to carry it on successfully and with profit, is as much a *trade* as many other kinds of business. It is as necessary that a regular apprenticeship should be served on a farm, in order to make a neat and profitable farmer, as it is to spend two or three years in learning other trades which might be mentioned. The difference is easily discernable between the farm of a workman, one who has served his time on a farm, and one who has had little or no experience in his business. While the former keeps every thing in good order about his premises, and raises good crops, the latter lets things go at "loose ends," and has stunted crops for his pains. One will endeavour to raise crops with little or no manure, and with land half cultivated, and in return for his labors receives scarce enough to pay for his trouble; hence the complaint of small profits of farming. While another who has devoted his time and attention thereto, "served his time on a farm," deems it to his advantage to manure bountifully, and cultivate accordingly. He calculates not only on his profits the present year, but for his land to pay in the same ratio, succeeding years. The one who considers farming no trade, but thinks each and every one capable of successfully managing a farm in all its varied parts, often has cause to change his opinions. It is most true any and every one can do it with the same profitable results. It is true again that the individual who has plenty of capital with which to improve land, has altogether the advantage over the individual whose means are limited. But it is not true again, that the one having the largest amount of capital always receives the most actual profit. While one may have a capital of three thousand dollars at his command to take the advantage of in his farming operations, another may have but five hundred, and still receive a higher per cent in proportion to the amount invested. The cause of this, in a great measure, is owing to the better management of the latter. Now it is very evident that the man who has "served an apprenticeship," been brought up on a farm, and devoted himself to his calling, will through his skillful husbandry receive nearly double the profit from the same amount and quality of land, than the individual will, who goes on to a farm with scarcely any knowledge of his business. True, he can plough his ground and plant his seed, after a fashion; but will it be done in a workmanlike manner? As well might a farmer go into a blacksmith's shop and attempt to forge out a shoe for a horse. No doubt, he would make something that would resemble a horse-shoe, but would it be a suitable shoe for a horse to wear? Just so with the unpractised, who would be a farmer; he might *manage* a farm and get a living from it; but how would the looks of his farm compare with his who was a farmer by trade? Farmers often experience the difference in those whom they hire to labor on their land. While one can earn eighteen dollars per month, another equally as strong and healthy cannot earn more than ten. The reason of this is plain. The one who has eighteen dollars is a farmer by trade; he knows how and where to take hold, and how to proceed; while the other, who has but ten dollars, (and perhaps is a dear hand at that,) is so little acquainted with the business, that he can scarce begin a job without being told how and where by his employer, and then he will go to work in a very bungling sort of a way. The fact is, he is a "raw hand"—he has got the trade to learn before he is worth eighteen dollars a month. The saying is, "Every one to his trade," and there is more truth than poetry in the remark.—*Boston Cultivator*.