ON SOWING OATS AND GRASS SEED.

When any new doctrine is promulgated, or any new theory advanced, every rational and thinking man will, before he is prepared to believe the first, wish to know what kind of evidence and how much of it can be produced in its support, before he is ready to give credence to it,—and of the latter he will wish to know whether the theory can be used in a practical manner to advantage, that he may not be liable to be deluded by any impostor who sees fit to practice his arts upon him: so the more evidence the writer on agriculture can produce in favor of any particular or favorite operation, or method of improvement, the more weight it ought to have on the minds of others. It is true that evidence is little thought of at the present day, by many people who are better satisfied with bold and unauthorised assertions than all the evidence in the world; but we do not belong to that class of "true believers" of modern date, who prefer the doctrines of those who can create the most wonder while they feel under the least responsibility for what they assert. After three years experimenting, and endeavoring to discover the best way to produce hay on my farm, if I have made no new discoveries, I think I can furnish some evidence to the statements of what others have written before me. My former practice was, after preparing the ground by planting corn the first year on the turf, and the second year potatoes, which I have always found best to succeed corn in rotation, I waited in the spring of the third year till the ground was sufficiently dry to plough, after which I sowed my grass seed and oats, or other spring grain, and harrowed in the usual way. If the season proved a dry one, and my seed sown on dry ground, my grass was about certain to die before the succeeding winter because it had not sufficient time to root; if the season proved favorable, and the seed came up well, the spring grain, and especially oats, would shade and choke it out of existence: so that I was, one way or the other, almost certain of a failure in my expectations of future crops. As some farmers continue to sow oat and grass seed together to the present time, I, for one, would advise them to adopt the course which many are pursuing, of sowing their oats alone, and ploughing in the stubble after harvesting the crop, and sow their grass seed in August, or the March following, and I think they will succeed much more to their satisfaction. We are not generally aware of the loss we sustain in not having our grass seed come up well, or dying after it has come up; owing to this one circumstance, a farmer may fail of an income treble in amount to pay all his taxes. I have seldom had good grass on any kind of land where I have sowed oats and grass seed together. Three years ago, from the necessity of the case, as I thought, I ploughed a piece of ground,—after digging my potatoes in October or November, put on the manure, harrowed and fitted it for seed, which I sowed the next March on a light snow. A part of this ground was light sandy land, and a part very wet and heavy, approaching to meadow or swamp, which would retard sowing seasonably in the spring; the result was, every seed I sowed appeared to come up, lived through the season, and after securing my other hay I had this mowed, which was a fine crop of good fodder, and the ground has continued to do much better since than my fields, sown late in the spring. Since that I have continued the practice of sowing my grass seed in the same manner in March, with the same success. I have done sowing oats with my grass, and am compensated with a good crop of hay instead, which I think is full as valuable. The present season I had herds grass more than a yard high, which sprung from seed sown last March, and was estimated over two tons to the acre. I have repeatedly sown my grass seed, within twenty years past, in August or September, where I have taken off a crop of rye or corn from land well manured, but my expectations were not realized: either the seed did not germinate, or the young grass perished in the winter. I much prefer sowing in March to these autumnal sowings. Clover sown in August, if it comes up, I believe seldom lives over winter. I have a high opinion of clover for horses and cows. A lady in Lowell told me that, on shifting the food of her cow from clover to other good hay, she immediately shrunk nearly one half in her usual quantity of milk: an observation which struck my mind forcibly. The first cow I ever wintered was fed entirely on clover; and in the spring following she produced me the fattest calf and the greatest quantity of milk of any cow I ever owned. The present season, notwithstanding the severity of the drought, some of my most dry and sandy land is now well covered with young and flourishing grass, sprung from the seed sown last March. On the whole, I am decidedly in favor of the March sowing, in preference to the sowing at any other season of the year, on very dry and sandy on very wet land, for reasons which I have stated above.—Co *pondent of Boston Cultivator.*

From the Central New-York Farmer.

Whitestown, July 19, 1842.—Dear Sir: I send you a few rants of the common kind, merely to show you what a little c vation will do towards improving this most common and most glected of fruits.

Our bushes are made to grow in the form of trees. They a fact little trees. In this shape they bear well five or six years, sometimes longer. The young trees should be placed at least feet apart; and every spring or fall the new wood which sh vigorously from the old branches, should be cut off with the ex tion of three or four eyes or joints. I usually trim them in the to prevent the heavy showers from breaking them down. By manner of pruning, the fruit is produced in rich, heavy clu upon all parts of the tree, even to the extreme points of the branc and does not dwindle away as in the common method of no cult *tion*, into little, puny, pigeon-shot berries, hanging upon soli stems, in a wide waste of bush.

Many of these currants are more than an inch and a half in cumference, and one will overgo an inch and three-fourths.

Yours respectfully, M. M. Bean.

In this connection we will present the reader with the follow recipe for preserving currants, which is taken from the *Albany C tivator*, and which, if founded in truth, is a valuable piece of inf mation:

To Preserve Currants.—Gather currants when green, se rate them from the stems, and put them in bottles, which co closely, and place in a cool part of the cellar. Currants may kept fresh and green in this manner 10 months or more, and w make excellent pies in the winter and spring.*

* [The bottles of green currants or gooseberries should be buri in earth in the cellar, otherwise some of them are liable to burst

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Lincolnshire Sheep.—Eli T. Hoyt, Esq. of Danbury, left our office a few days since, samples of wool from the fleeces of s veral of his flock of Lincolnshire sheep, as follows:—

No. 1 is from a Buck 1 year old—weight of fleece 12½ lbs. wool over nine inches long.

No. 2—A Ewe—weight of fleece 8½ lbs.; length of wool inches; the growth of one season.

No. 3—A Ewe Lamb, less than three months old, weighed 3 lbs.; wool 4½ inches long.

No. 4—A Buck Lamb, same age; wool 5 inches long.

The wool from these sheep is not of the finest quality, but th great length of the staple fits it admirably for the manufacture Carpets and other coarse fabrics, as well as worsteds. The princ pal excellency of the Lincolnshires, however, Mr. Hoyt consider to be their great weight of carcass, and extraordinary susceptibili to take on fat. Some of his lambs, with no other feed than his pa tures afford, become if possible too fat.—*Farmer's (Ct.) Gazett*

[There are very rich pastures in Danbury. Seventy years ag the writer's father raised 600 bushels of Spanish potatoes there o one acre without manure.—Ed. Col. Far.]

Who Beats This?—Mr. Horace Cole of Chesterfield, sheared last week, a cosset wether three years old, which yielded a fleece of 13 lbs. 1 oz.—Last year the same sheep gave a fleece of 12½ lbs.

Why, Claudius Allen, of Cheshire, Ct., in 1841 sheared from one sheep, 1 year old, 14 lbs., and from three sheep of the same age 33½ lbs. This year, 1842, from twelve sheep I have cut 88 lbs. of wool; eleven of them ewes, and one buck. From nine of the ewes, which are old ones, I have raised twelve lambs; the other two missed. One of the lambs, when first dropped, weighed 13 lbs. 2 oz., and when it was ten weeks old weighed 77 lbs. On the first day of last October, I had a lamb about six months old that weighed 123 lbs., and a buck 18 months old that weighed 182. Who beats this?

C. Allen.

Cheshire, July 7, 1842.

The above sheep, Mr. Allen informs us, are a cross of the Bakewell and common breeds.—*Connecticut Farmer's Gazette.*