

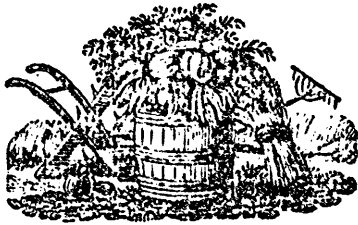
# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,  
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

VOL. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 16, 1842.

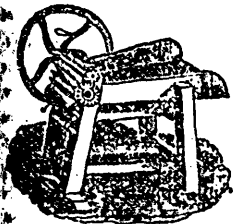
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## THE COLONIAL FARMER.

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### GREEN'S PATENT STRAW-CUTTER.



This is probably the best instrument of the kind that has yet been invented. The strength of one man is sufficient to cut two bushels in a minute. The common Dutch straw-cutter has been found to effect a great saving in fodder, as cattle will eat all the bright straw of wheat, barley, or oats when cut with an equal quantity of good hay. It

has been much used in America by farmers of Dutch or German descent, and had probably come into general use, but for the time required to cut any considerable quantity with this feeble machine. Green's invention combining great power, with great simplicity, will make the cutting of fodder for a stock of ten or twelve head, a trifling job.

The German custom of feeding working horses and cattle with a mixture of bruised grain, and chaff composed of straw and hay cut together, is excellent. When formerly English and German horsemen were serving in the same army on the continent, the horses of the Germans always kept in the best condition, and on some occasions when compelled to travel for a few days where forage could not be procured, one third of the horses belonging to some English regiments were completely knocked up, and had to be replaced with others, while the more provident Germans did not lose a horse, as they always carried behind the saddle, a double feed of cut chaff and grain, which was never used but at such times, and in such quantities as the commander directed. The horse whose long feed is half straw always has better wind than one fed wholly on hay. Many have admired the excellent draught horses of the Dutch teamsters, who formerly were the Carriers from Philadelphia to the Ohio, before the invention of Steamboats. These horses were fed with cut straw and hay mixed, and bruised rye, in the proportion of one quart of grain to two of chaff. The feed was always wet when it was given, and (when there was time to wait for it to cool) wet with boiling water.

The price of Green's Strawcutter in Boston is 30 dollars. We learn that a Mechanic in Picout is now engaged in manufacturing Strawcutters upon the same principle. If he makes them as good as his Model he must succeed if the Farmers can see their own interest.

Osborne, TIOGA COUNTY, December 29, 1834.

J. Bucl, Esq.—Dear Sir—Will you please give to the public through your valuable Agricultural paper, (*the Cultivator*.) the following Recipe for the cure of that formidable disease of the horse, called the Poll Evil. As soon as the Tumor appears, make a strong decoction of the root of the meadow plant or vine known by the name of "poison ivy," and sometimes by that of *Mercury*; bathe the tumor with this decoction every day, as hot as the horse will bear it; and heat it with a hot iron. In a short time it will begin to diminish, and in six weeks it will wholly subside. A very valuable horse of mine was attacked with this disease last summer, and two months, after we first discovered it, were consumed in experiments of various kinds, when I became discouraged, and gave up the horse as lost. The tumor became appalling, so much so, that the best of our farriers declined to undertake a cure, and advised me to sell my horse for the best price I could get; when shortly afterwards, I accidentally heard of the above remedy, I tried it, and with complete success. No trace of the disease remains, although when I commenced the application the horse was so bad that he could not drop his head low enough to drink, unless he was driven into deep water. I have no doubt the remedy is a specific if applied in time. How long before the tumor breaks, the application, to be successful, must be made, I am not able to say—but the tumor on my horse must have been three months advancing before we commenced our application. IRA CLIZBE.

[This shrub, the "*Rhus radicans*," is very common in this Province. The leaves resemble those of the *Walthod*, but are more shining, and always grow by threes. A French Surgeon has highly recommended it as an application for inveterate Rheumatism. The bruised leaves will produce more inflammation than Spanish Flies. It should never be boiled in a house, unless the chimney has a very strong draught, nor should it be collected or handled by persons who are freckled or very fair, and care should be taken to keep to windward when taking it up, as much exposure to the steam that comes from it when cut produces a troublesome kind of Erysipelas, which lasts for several days. Should such an accident occur apply soft soap and salt to the affected parts. Be careful not to wash after handling this shrub, for five or six hours. The same precaution is necessary for those who are mowing wild meadows in which the poison Ivy is found.—ED. OF COL. FAR.]

### FOR THE COLONIAL FARMER.

Str.—I was gratified by reading a communication from Mr. N. A. Coster, of Barrsborough Rectory, in the *Colonial Farmer* for June, treating of the impoverishing effects of burning new land for the first crop. Many years ago I have thought on this subject. I see with regret large tracts of country, which I formerly witnessed covered with a luxuriant and heavy crop of timber, now reduced nearly to a barren, the soil of which will produce little else than stunted bushes and weeds. The cause of this desolating change is easy to account for, on philosophical principles. The portions of land here alluded to were exposed to the violent hurricanes which formerly visited this country, one in the year 1798, and another at a later period, which laid prostrate the whole of the timber thereon. Here were accumulated the vegetation of two or three hundred years in the shape of timber undergrowth, roots, moss, &c. Thus we may suppose that every particle of vegetable food, consisting either of carbon or salts of the various alkalies which form this food, were extracted to the depth to which the roots of the timber had formerly penetrated. The decay of this mass in a few years renders it highly combustible in dry seasons;