



CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson.

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MONTHLY CALENDAR.

This month has ever been hailed as that in which Nature is re-animated. Whilst we are penning this article, we see, in our mind's eye, the provincial cultivator making every necessary preparation for the due performance of the various branches of his exalted and honourable profession, which are requisite to be carried into operation, at this important season of the year.

In this, as in all new countries, the agricultural population stand much in need of sound practical instruction. Whether the editor of this journal is competent to perform this important task, is a question for the reader to decide,—the sequel will, at all events, be known when the advice or recommendations have been honestly followed.

Much attention should be paid to the selection of good seed—every variety when practical should be pure, and quite free from all noxious seeds. If there be any mixture of seeds with the different varieties of grain which is intended to be sown, too much labour cannot easily be given in extracting every impurity. It should be remembered, that there is as much difference in the varieties of the

same species of grain as there is in the same species of fruit. This is a subject of great importance to the farmer. By selecting good varieties of grain, and making the ground in proper order, and sowing in season, in almost every instance, the cultivator will be liberally rewarded for his toil.

In purchasing new varieties of grain, roots, &c., those which are brought from northern to southern latitudes, are more likely to come to perfect maturity than those which are brought from a southern to a northern latitude. All seeds should be changed every few years from light lands to heavy ones, and *vice versa*, and only the richest and plumpest should be sown; and in this way great improvements have been made, and no doubt still greater will be effected, through the same means.

No operation on the farm is so essentially necessary to be executed with taste, and in a perfect manner as ploughing,—a good implement, a strong steady team, and a mechanical eye, are all requisites for the due performance of this branch of business. Nothing looks better in agriculture, than to see straight, deep, and well-proportioned furrows laid into ridges, resting one on another in an angle of inclination of about 45 degrees. The depth of the furrow, and the width of the ridges, will altogether depend upon the qualities of the soil and its situation,—on sandy soils, caution should be observed, as it is possible to plough so deep that the soil will become almost like a filtering apparatus; and on such soils the ridges may be made to a great width, and the furrows entirely tilled without any manifest injury to the crops. On moss clays a contrary practice will be found to be very beneficial. In all cases where clay soils are very tenacious, the ridges must not only be made narrow, but the furrows must be cleaned out between the ridges, to the full depth to which the

and was ploughed. As much as we have recommended excessively deep ploughing for autumn ploughing; and for crossing fallow grounds for wheat, we would recommend our friends to be cautious and not to go too deep in their spring work,—the full depth of the natural or made soil, is a proper criterion for ploughing at this season.

If the soil be well tilled, and the seed be of the very best quality, and sown in proper season, still it does not follow that a farmer has any right to expect a full crop, less he sows a liberal quantity of seed upon the ground. Some varieties of the same species of grain require more seed per acre than others; but on all rich deep soils, the quantity necessary to ensure an early full crop, will be, in spring wheat, 2 bushels; in barley, 2½ from that to 3 bushels; in short haulm peas, 3 bushels; and in most varieties of oats, 3 bushels per acre. A very celebrated wheat grower used to remark, that he always made it a point to sow his seed so thick on the ground, that on an average, each plant would only produce three stools or straws. Those who are not decided on these points would do well to further experiment, both as to variety and the amount of seed necessary to be sown, to secure, in the common sense of the term, a full crop.

Look to your wheat fields; if there are any spots where the plants appear too thin, these spots should be ploughed and sown with spring wheat, as soon as the ground be dry enough to prevent the horses from poaching.

Let none suppose for a moment, that an average good crop of grain can be produced unless a sufficient amount of plants be on the ground,—this argument will especially apply to fall sown wheat. If the plants be far asunder, and the soil rich with vegetable matter, an average crop of straw might be produced, but the time required for the production of the numerous stools or stalks which spring forth, is so considerable that in nine cases out of ten the crop is blighted, and would scarcely pay for harvesting.—We would desire our friends whose crops of fall wheat appear unprospering, to plough them up at once and sow an approved variety of spring wheat upon the ground, at the rate of two bushels per acre.