

THE

# Canadian Agriculturist,

OR

JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. XIII.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1861.

No. 3.

## Management of Farmyard Manure.

The manufacture, preservation and economic application of farmyard manure, deservedly occupies a distinguished position in the agricultural practice of all countries, in which the improvement of husbandry is regarded as an object of national importance. Even in England, where, from a peculiar combination of circumstances, artificial manures, as they are called, can be readily obtained and are extensively employed, the farmer has to depend in a great degree on "barnyard muck," the proper management of which has for many years received, and is still receiving, the most earnest attention both from practical and scientific men. Farmyard manure constitutes the "sheet anchor" of the Canadian farmer, as extra or artificial productions are too difficult to procure, or too costly in price to be, at the present, at least, extensively employed. Slime, hum, ashes, and occasionally a little burnt phosphate of lime, crushed bones or guano, may be employed as special dressings, or in the form of compost with earthy or partially decomposed vegetable matter, yet the farmer looks mainly to the excrements of his live stock, combined with straw, to enable him to restore to the soil the greater portion of those ingredients which a large part of cropping has removed.

Farmyard manure, however, varies very much in the degree of its fertilising power, from several different sources; such as particularly the kind of food on

which animals are fed, and the amount of skill and care that is taken in preserving and mixing their solid and liquid excrements with straw, and other substances which by fermentation produce a compost more or less rich in the food of plants. Animals liberally fed on hay, turnips, linseed, and grain, produce a manure exceedingly rich in nitrogen, and the various salts required by our cultivated crops. The farmer should pay particular attention during the process of the formation of his manure, to what may be termed the chemical action and changes to which the mass is at all times more or less subject, by fermentation and exposure; and that no unnecessary waste occur by its being too much exposed to the action of air and water. Eave-troughs, for instance, ought to be provided in all places where cattle are kept, and their manure exposed to the action of the weather. If this precaution be neglected, a large portion of the soluble salts will be washed out, and make their escape, as is too commonly seen, in the form of a dark brown liquid, flowing from the yards or heap over the lower levels of the adjoining ground, till it meets with a final exit in the water course of a neighbouring ravine. The amount of valuable manure that is thus annually lost baffles all attempts at calculation. In Europe the practice is gaining ground of keeping manure during the period of its formation, more or less completely under cover, thus preventing the washings occasioned by heavy falls of rain water. We have seen a few instances of this kind in Canada; and it is