

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE,

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

Circulation over 20,000 Copies.

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FARMER'S HAND BOOK FOR 1884.—Our stock of this book is now completely exhausted, and further orders cannot be filled. The Hand Book for 1885 will be issued early in December next; price, paper, 25c., and in cloth covers 50c. each. Orders can now be sent in.

We would remind our many friends who wish us success, that there is hardly a post office in the land where a club of five or more cannot be formed by showing a copy of the paper to those interested in agriculture, and that we will gladly mail a specimen copy free to any farmer or gardener whose address is sent us.

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### Our Monthly Prize Essay.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "The Best Methods of Economizing Work on the Farm." Essays to be handed in no later than the 15th of July.

### Sheaves from our Gleaner.

Rise early.  
Shelter tools.  
Milk regularly.  
Weigh your milk.  
No loitering, boys.  
Minimize the chores.  
No time for borrowing.  
How about your fences?  
Prepare for the big push.  
Where is your whetstone?  
Keep ahead of your work.  
Where is your breachy cow?  
Rest when the work is done.  
Have you a good grindstone?  
Don't let dogs chase the cows.  
Don't overstock your pastures.  
The best saving bank—The compost.  
Keep eyes on insects and black-knot.  
High feeding tends to produce barrenness.  
The price of fruit—Eternal vigilance against insects and weeds.

### Summer Meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers.

The summer meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association was held at Berlin on the 24th and 25th ult., Mr. Wm. Saunders, President of the Association, in the chair. There was a good attendance of fruit growers and florists present. There was a fine display of the different varieties of strawberries and roses, contributed by various members of the Association. Several interesting papers were read, followed by lively discussions. The next meeting will be held at Barrie on the 1st and 2nd of October next.

MUTUAL MARRIAGE AID ASSOCIATION.—We have several inquiries about the responsibility of this association. The association has got into trouble, and will probably be wound up at once. The Government should require a substantial deposit from such associations, and also exercise frequent and most careful inspection of their management.

"We regard the FARMER'S ADVOCATE as a reliable and progressive live stock authority."  
T. L. MILLER Co., Becher, Ill., U. S. A.

### Editorial.

#### Green Manuring.

Green crops, applied as a mode of manuring, embrace the principle that the elements of fertility removed from the soil shall be restored. If the crop is plowed under the surface soil is enriched not only by the portion of the vegetation which grew above ground, but by the stores of fertility brought up from the subsoil by the roots. If the crop is grazed off by the stock the nutriment is restored in the manure, minus the small quantity laid up in animal increase—but the extra availability of the manure compared with that of the green crop may be a compensation for this. Soiling may be regarded as another mode, when the crop is fed off, either in the stall or in a yard, and restored to the field in the form of manure. The soiling system is the most profitable of the three modes, as the manure can be returned when it will accomplish the most good, and when there is the least liability for waste to be incurred. However, if the soil is conspicuously deficient in organic matter the most profitable method is to plow the crop under. Various compromises of the three systems may be made according to the quantity of organic matter already in the soil; the crop may be partly eaten off, partly soiled and partly plowed under. Every other system of cultivation is a process of green manuring on a small scale, the roots and stubble serving for the formation of humus; but in sandy or stiff-clay soils the quantity of organic matter produced in this manner, even with a liberal application of coarse manure, is often insufficient.

Before being able to thoroughly comprehend the importance of the subject, it will be necessary to understand the action of humus in the soil. Above all it is the source of nitrogen to the plant, without which vegetation could not exist. Vegetable soils being dark in color are great absorbers of solar heat, whereby they become earlier and more quickly warmed than other soils, giving earlier seeding and maturity. They have great absorptive power for ammonia; they improve the mechanical texture of clay soils, preventing the agglutination of the particles of clay, and increasing the cohesiveness of the sand. They admit air readily, which is necessary to maintain the chemical actions that should be continually taking place during the period of growth. Decaying vegetation also evolves gases which make the soil mellow, porous and light. Notwithstanding