

PLASTER AS A SPECIAL MANURE FOR STRAWBERRIES.

The place is near South Pass, Union Co., Ill., on a high, dry ridge. Soil is very finely comminuted, highly silicious loam, for years in cultivation without manure, and pretty thoroughly worn; too poor to raise corn; not capable of raising a crop, as proved by trial, producing but a meagre show of stalks and bunnies.

Knowing it would not be worth the labor of setting in strawberries without special care, I had it subsoiled with a Mapes subsoil plow, which follows in the furrow of a common plow and lifts the subsoil without turning it on top, the whole worked fourteen or fifteen inches deep. Plants set in spring, as soon as plowed, and a very little rotted barnyard manure added on the surface after the plants were set. More would have been better.

I applied land plaster at the rate of half a table-spoon full to each plant.

They were set in rows three and one-half feet apart and fifteen inches in the row. Rows four feet apart is a better distance. Kept clean with cultivator and hoe. What few runners appeared, cut off. As the season was dry, they were set late, and didn't make much progress. One year after they were set out, a second application of plaster was made, rather less than before; would have also applied

barnyard manure had it been obtainable. Cultivated as before, and this season, 1870, they make a splendid growth, runners well clipped; and the following year, 1871, or two years from time of priming, was rewarded with the finest yield probably ever seen in that section.

The whole quantity of land as measured was one acre and nine tenths, (1 9-10.) Of this amount, about one-half an acre did not receive as good treatment as the balance, and produced comparatively less. It probably did not yield more than twenty bushels.

The whole quantity produced 242 6-10 bushels.

Variety is Wilson's Albany. The bed was not properly cultivated last year, and a full yield is not expected this season, but might have been got from it with good attention.

At the same time plaster was applied to a piece of corn of six acres. The yield was largely increased, both in size of stalks and ears. Not being there at the time of the gathering, no reliable figures as to the amount were obtained.

To those who are not familiar with the use of plaster I would say, its best efforts are apparent on light soils and those much worn, and to have a continued good result, manure must also be added, or the land will stimulate into a worse exhaustion.

As a means of renovating worn lands, with the aid of clover, it is very valuable. Sow clover and stimulate its growth with plaster; sown lightly broadcast over it, and when fully grown, turn it under. This may be done late enough to make the clover re-seed the land, and when it is anew the following spring, plaster again. There is no way as cheap as this to renovate old land, or to improve the quality of good land.—*Cor. Prairie Farmer.*

PREMIUMS OF THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO.

The Directors of the Association offer the following prizes for the year 1872:—

1. AN HONORARY MEDAL to the originator of any new fruit, which, having been thoroughly tested, is found to be worthy of being placed among the fruits of its class for cultivation in Ontario.

2nd. The sum of FIFTY DOLLARS for the best new Canadian seedling, late winter apple.

THIRTY DOLLARS for the best Canadian seedling, harvest apple.

All these to be at least equal to the old popular varieties now in cultivation. Not less than two dozen specimens of the fruit must be sent when in condition for examination to the President of the Association, Rev. R. Bennet, Hamilton, accompanied by a letter

setting forth what, in the opinion of the sender, are the excellencies of the fruit sent, whether for cooking or for the dessert, &c., &c., also stating the origin of the tree, if known, its vigour, hardihood, productiveness, and the like.

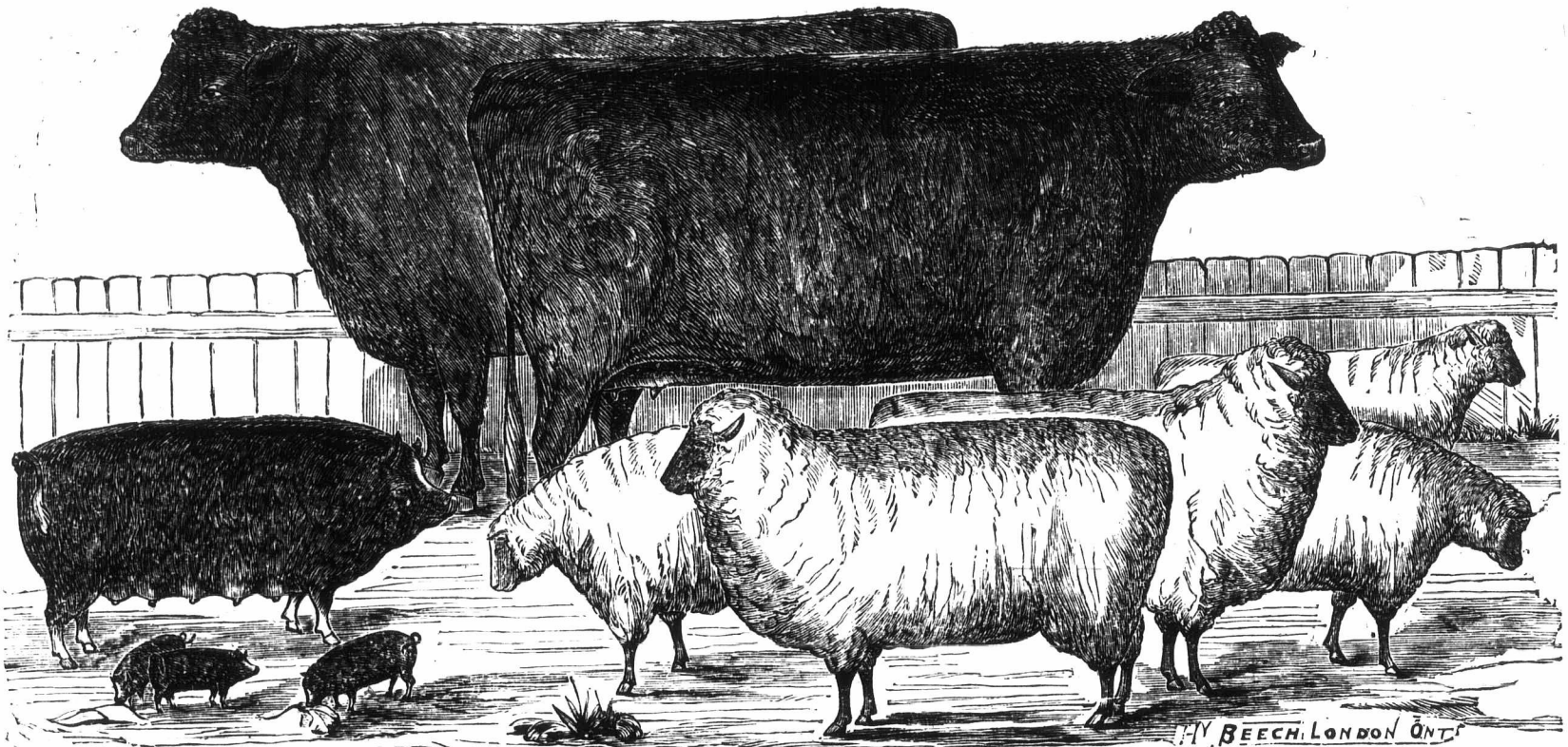
3rd. The sum of TWENTY FIVE DOLLARS for the best essay on the cultivation of the plum, including a short description of the varieties which the writer has grown and his opinion on the merits of each.

FIFTEEN DOLLARS for the second best essay thereon.

4th. The sum of TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS for the best essay on mildew of the gooseberry and the grape, with drawing of the appearance of the mildew in several stages of development, as seen under the microscope by the writer.

FIFTEEN DOLLARS for the second best essay thereon. Each essay must be forwarded to the Secretary, D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, on or before the fifteenth day September, 1872, and bear a motto, and be accompanied with a sealed note having the same motto indorsed on the outside, and containing within the name of the author of the essay.

5th. To any person sending to William Saunders, Esq., London, transportation prepaid, five thousand of the plum curculio in the



Group of Southdowns, Galloways and Berkshires, the Property of H. E. Irving, Esq., Hamilton, Ont.

beetle state, the sum of TWENTY DOLLARS; or sending three thousand, the sum of FIVE DOLLARS. The Treasurer will pay these sums to any person furnishing him with a certificate from Mr. Saunders, stating that he is entitled thereto.

[We would wish the directors, after the award of the prizes, to publish the lists of the competitors successful, and unsuccessful. A word to the wise is sufficient for them.]

Horticultural Notes.

Sulphozone is the name of the preparation that has been found most effectual for the destruction of mildew and blight on grape vines, hops, and roses. Sulphozone contains much free sulphurous acid, and common sulphur sometimes is altogether free from this acid, and is therefore worthless.

A hyacinth, the *Hyacinthus candicans*, lately introduced into England from South Africa, bears a flowering stem nearly three feet high, decorated with a score of massive, pure white pendent bells.

The Harbinger Pea has a certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society, as being the earliest pea grown, also for its enormous pods which are the largest of all the sorts.

Seedling Deodars grow faster and make handsomer trees than those produced from grafts or cuttings.

Mulching is recommended for peas and potatoes. Any kind of short grass laid between the rows will answer. The mulch on a dry soil is the best labor saver, and always increases the crop.

An experienced fig-grower recommends figs planted in pots and then plunged into the ground, as the best method of growing this plant.

It is said by an eminent rose-grower that *Dupuy Jamain* is a variety that every rose-grower ought to have. It stood among the very first at the Birmingham exhibition.

Among the new cucumbers that are recommended, the "Marquis of Lorne" stands very high as an excellent variety.

Myatts' Prolific is the potato that is recommended by the English gardeners as the best for an early crop.

The *Revue Horticole* commends seven varieties of the Maple from Japan, which have been introduced and found perfectly hardy in the vicinity of Paris. The beauty and elegance of the Japanese trees are beyond description.

A friend recently called our attention to a new curculio cure. He has a peach tree over which a hop-vine climbeth, and the curculio, he says, always avoids that tree. We have always had our doubts about the curculio being scared by any smell, however nauseous, since the days of the great gas-tar remedy, when we saw curculio traveling over dry gas-tarred boards. Our friend, however, is so sure the hop vine is a full protection, that we are willing to record what he says, although we cannot but recollect that the gas-tar man was quite as sure once as he is now.

AMONG THE ROSES.

From an article on Roses, by D. W. Beadle, we cull the following extract:—

In this varying climate of ours, a climate of such great extremes, where the winter's frost penetrates the uncovered earth to such searching depths, and the scorching July sun pours down upon the soil with such intense power, the lover of roses will have resort to constant mulching. A muck of six inches in depth, winter and summer, will prove of lasting benefit. It should be formed of well decom-

posed manure, brought chiefly from the cow stable, and spread on the surface of soil, over the entire bed devoted to the roses, to the depth of four inches, and over this may be spread in fall a covering of coarse straw—little to the depth of two or three inches more, in the month of June, covered with grass freshly cut from the lawn or meadow. Such a muck will prevent the frosts from penetrating the soil to any great depth in winter, and will enable the roses to resist the destructive power of the drying frosty winter winds, and come forth in spring time in full freshness and vigor. And in summer, such a mulch will keep the roots cool and full of sap, when the sun is pouring in his mid-day fervor upon the parched ground, and the rapid evaporation that is going on at every leaf pose will be constantly and abundantly supplied.

Mr. Irving's Farm.

We paid a visit to Mr. Irving's farm, and were much pleased with his stock.—Perhaps the most remarkable and useful hint to record was the following:—When

we entered of 24 bells. used so many purpose of had found well if Cou present act dogs, by re quarter, or at least on Mr. H. J.

as one of Down she about 80 even, she been paid stock to b seen in a stands pre thorough-classes of the pures are more carriage is The quali for culina their lar lambs of This cl come into The g has cause to the Li yet there Downs. Mr. Ir last year Galloway glected l of the c realized establish make a the Dur are com are exce We w of the P farm a animal sleeker we were appeara breed. Galloway the otl better t consits We do breed a bined; disulva be mai The "Heat fine Ga ving, w this cl flock o shire p we hav is pro ilton, i and th stock. any pe obtain

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