

NEW FENCE.—BOARD AND PICKET.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

Clinton, February 27, 1857.

Dear Sir,—I hope you will excuse me for troubling you with a few lines on a subject in which, I have no doubt, you feel an interest. I don't know how what I have to communicate will appear in print, as I write but seldom, and never for the press; but I cannot help thinking that if what I wish to inform you of were universally known, it would be as universally approved of, and, where practicable, adopted. Almost every number of the "Agriculturist," for the past year, has had more or less to say in reference to fences. I perused every article in reference to this subject, with peculiar interest. I confess I was surprised and disappointed at the result of the deliberations of the Agricultural and Horticultural Club, who devoted an evening to discuss the subject, and who, after all their debate and investigation, decided that that most of all objectionable fence, the zig-zag, was *the fence* for the farmer. From such conclusion I did at the time and do now most decidedly differ; cause why? Last summer I had a piece of old fence cedar zig-zag which required repairing, which it did annually, and had done for several years. I was getting tired of repairing it, and resolved to try something new. I looked at the old fence, and these were my cogitations:—I thought there was a deal of material in it, and wondered if it could not be put up some other way. I thought, first, horizontal; it would certainly take fewer rails, and look better; but then, to my mind, there is no economical way yet discovered of securing the horizontal fence. I then thought, set the rails up endways or perpendicular; yes, but they are too long. Well, saw them off, or rather make two of them—yes, pickets—that's just it. Now for a fence. Move away the old one, get the plough, and make a straight furrow up and down a time or two, till you have formed a straight trench; sharpen one end of the pickets—the sawed end, of course, is square—then drive one in at each end of the trench, in the place and to the height you wish your fence; next drive one in the centre to correspond. But, before you proceed further, it will be necessary to place either yourself or a person with a straight eye at one end of the fence for a time, till you have got some pickets in for guides or sights, which you will soon do by driving a picket in every centre till you have one about every half rod; you can then commence, and fill up the vacancies. Drive in your pickets three inches apart straight till they are even on the top, and no further. When they are all driven in, straight on the side and level on the top, fill up the trench with what you took out of it; then run the plough up and down each side of it, and bank it up as high as you please, and while you are doing it, recollect you are killing two birds with one stone, viz.—a good bank will support your fence, and at the same time form a trench or drain which will prevent the fence from heaving after frost, and serve the adjacent land. You will then get boards one inch thick and six inches wide, nail them on the top of the fence, put a nail in each picket and break joints on the top of a good sound picket which will hold two nails—and there's the fence as firm as a church. Now, Mr. Editor, if that fence is properly put up, I pronounce it the cheapest, the strongest, the neatest, and