

barn-yards where the barn is erected on the side of a hill. The manure thrown out upon the lower surface, whereby the moisture, independent of the increased discharge of it by rain, flows in a stream down the hill. This very defective arrangement prevails throughout the farms, with very few exceptions, bordering upon the Saint John, the Kennebec-kasis, and Hammond rivers, which receive this wash from the stables. It is true that the hills are steep; but it is equally true, that a little arrangement would save not only the quantity of the manure, but greatly improve the quality of it. The moss-covered surfaces of many of the grass fields in the neighbourhood of such wastes, bear witness against the un-farmer-like inattention of their owners.

While speaking of the waste connected with the use of fresh manure deposited and scattered over the field in the manner already mentioned, we may advert to another evil, arising from it.

The manure thus used, is loaded with various seeds, which produce an abundance of weeds and grasses, absorbing the nourishment of the manure and soil from the crop, injuring the growth of it, and requiring additional labour and time to root them out. This fact every farmer must have witnessed in the comparative states of a row or field of potatoes planted with fresh manure, and of another field planted with manure from a proper compost, and free from such incumbrances. In the former case, it is oftentimes a difficult matter for the husbandman to discover and separate the crop from the surrounding weeds.

Although the philosophical agriculturist cannot define the precise nature of the change which is effected on fresh manure by fermentation, whereby it acquires new properties capable of promoting the process of vegetation, it is nevertheless a well established fact, that the gases, which are disengaged during decomposition, fertilize the soil by which they are absorbed. This fact has been, and is easily ascertained, by a simple experiment, viz: covering a compost

during fermentation with sterile earth; the vapour which ascends from the fermenting manure is absorbed by this soil, which, without any admixture with the other substance of the compost, is enriched and rendered productive by it. The earth possesses this absorbent property in a remarkable degree; hence very little odour arises from fresh manure when scattered over a field, or from a putrescent animal body, when slightly covered with soil. The farmer should be aware of this important fact: for it is a common practice to heap stable manure in large quantities, without any earthy covering; it heats these fertilizing gases or vapours escape from the smoking mass, and are dissipated and lost; whereas a covering of earth would prevent it, and thus materially increase the ability of the agriculturist to enrich his fields.

ARRANGEMENT OF BARN YARDS.

The same indifference and inattention, which, it must be confessed, characterise the proceedings of too many of our farmers with respect to their manure, are observable in the arrangements of their barn-yards, which are equally deficient in fitness and economy. Every barn-yard in our cold provinces, should be surrounded with a close fence, to exclude the cold winds. A roof should be attached to it, sloping so as to throw the rain from the yard. Beneath this shed, there should be a manger for the fodder of the cattle. This arrangement would protect them from severe exposure in winter, and prevent the waste of hay, which generally follows the slovenly practice of scattering it over the barn-yard; where, in stormy weather, part is eaten, part covered up, and part trodden under foot by the cattle, and destroyed. The barn-yard should have divisions in it for horses, horned cattle, and sheep, with sheds and mangers, or racks, as already mentioned. This separation would prevent the frequent accidents which occur from kicking and hooking, as it is no uncommon occurrence to hear of a valuable horse gored