

from the roots of the sod must be at the expense of the coming crop of hay. In this state of mind and feeling, I reached my friend's house, and was infinitely surprised to find him feeding all his cattle and sheep, and indeed I might add hogs, which also came in for a share, to the full hood, as he termed it, with sugar beet, which he had reserved for this particular season, as a link between the winter and summer crops, the value for which purpose, to use his own words, was "quite above all price." Said he—while many are debating about the quality of the beet, and are not able to determine whether its cultivation be the greatest good or the most considerable of evils, I have gone quietly on, sowing regularly the quality necessary for my winter consumption, being careful to preserve a full supply for the whole month of April, without regard to the stories that are told about its different and very dissimilar properties; and now you see me with plenty of food for every living thing about me for a month to come, obtained at a most trifling cost of production; for, from about an acre of land, I harvested a mountain of green food, to mix with my hay and straw, which have now become dry and hard from keeping: and by these means I am able to keep all my stock from the meadows and pasture until May—a perfectly incalculable advantage; for thus I am not only feeding them this year, but adding astonishingly to my means for the next winter, as I almost fancy that by so doing I am able now to double the quantity of hay that I used to do. And this is not all; for the large quantity and excellent quality of the manure which I thereby obtain, is of far more value to me than all the labor and expense of cultivating the beets, twice told. You see that my stock are in good condition, contented and happy, confined to their winter quarters, and not permitted to roam abroad, to the destruction of the fences, the loss of their dung, and the absolute annihilation of the future crops of hay; and if these are not advantages sufficient to induce us to go forward with the cultivation of the beet, I should be glad to be told what more we have a right to expect. Let others argue what is the value of such a crop for winter food, and especially for spring use, while I am too happy to be able to create a summer amongst my stock during the most dreary winter, and preserve my spring crop of grass, by the very trifling devotion of about a single acre of land to their cultivation. I repeat, my extra manure pays me for all my extra expense; and my peace of mind is above all price." I thought of my poor starving animals at home, and shortened my visit, that I might return and be prepared to practice the doctrine which my friend had been preaching.

JOHN LACY.

[Mangel wurtzle is, we believe, equal to sugar beet, for the purposes mentioned in the above letter. Ruta baga and carrots are also frequently grown with great advantage.—Ed.]

**TO RAISE GOOD RADISHES.**—Take pure sand, some depth from the surface, or pure earth, below where it has been tilled or moved, or sea sand, washed by the waves. Make a bed in the garden, six or eight inches deep, and as big as you please; in this sow your radish seed, and they will grow well without manure, and be free from worms; we have tried it frequently, and never failed.

Radishes that are grown very early in the season, are of slow growth, and inferior to those grown after the weather is warm enough to hasten them, as the faster they grow the more tender, and the finer the flavor.—*Yankee Farmer.*

**OAT SOWING.**—If the ground be ploughed in too wet a state, no after management, by any other instrument, will recover its suitability for the healthy growth of vegetables: those parts of fields which were too wet when ploughed, although equally rich with other parts, not only fail to yield a crop the same year, but refuse for years after, owing to the difficulty of reducing the soil into that friable state fit for the reception and nourishment of plants, after having been once stirred into the consistence of mortar; it then becomes, when dry, impervious both to air and moisture, without which no plant can thrive. It therefore behoves the farmer to be particular, lest he sow any kind of grain before the soil is dry enough to receive the seed; the sooner, however, this can be obtained in the spring the better, and the oat crop in particular will be heavier if sown early. Some farmers intentionally delay sowing, lest late frosts should check and weaken the young plant, but that is groundless timidity: the earliest sown crops, notwithstanding they might be repeatedly exposed to frosts after

being above ground, have always turned out the heaviest at harvest; the seed should be well harrowed in, finishing with the roller. The best crops are often raised on land ploughed up deep, late in autumn, upon which the seed is dragged in as soon as the frost is out of the ground, without another ploughing; the quantity of seed, four bushels per acre.—*Maine Cultivator.*

**MANURES.**—The cardinal point to be observed in the management of manures, is to apply them in that state, and to those crops which are the most benefited by their application. When manures are left in the yards over the summer, and exposed to the action of sun and rain, they are deprived of much of their value. The most efficient parts pass away and are lost to the farm. If manures are not applied to the spring crops of corn and roots, they should be heaped with layers of earth, vegetable mold, marsh mud, wash of roads, and with some lime, that the salts and gases produced, may be absorbed and retained. In this way the value of yard manures is much increased, and the quantity augmented. The experiments of Cheptal and Liebig, prove that the mere vegetable mold left by the decomposition of plants or manure in the open air, possesses little value compared with that in which all the salts and fertilizing ingredients are retained. A short time since, a committee of the French Institute was appointed to examine the nature and effects of a new manure, represented as of extraordinary power. It was found to be composed of Gypsum, saturated with urine, the mass then dried and pulverized, and applied to plants in the form of a powder. It was pronounced the most effective of a large quantity of animalized manures, so much so indeed that the committee recommended great caution in its use. A small quantity applied to corn, garden plants, &c. gave a most rapid and vigorous growth. Would it not be well for our farmers to make some experiments with this material? It is certainly within the power of all. We hope that poudrette and bone manure will also be fairly tried; on these points we should be negligent no longer.—*Cultivator.*

**PREPARING NIGHT SOIL.**—The best and most economical method I know of preserving unimpaired the most valuable element in night soil, is as follows:—To every 100 lbs. of night soil add 7 lbs. of sulphate of lime (gypsum), in powder; a double decomposition will ensue, and the result will be instead of sulphate or lime and carbonate of ammonia, carbonate of lime and sulphate of ammonia—the latter a soluble salt which cannot be volatilized. It might now be mixed with other compost, or dried any way thought proper, and applied to the roots of the vegetable, to be again transformed into bread, butter, and cheese. Chloride of calcium, sulphuric or muriatic acid, substances of low price, would completely neutralize the urine, converting its ammonia into salts, which possess no volatility. I would also suggest that if the floors of stables be strewed from time to time with a little sulphate of lime, they will lose all their offensive smell, and none of the ammonia which forms can be lost, but retained in a condition serviceable as manure. In close stables the horses' health would be better preserved, and they would not be so liable to get blind as now.—1½ lbs. of sulphate of lime will fix as much ammonia as is produced by 100 lbs. of horse urine.—*Farmers' Gazette.*

**GREAT VALUE OF THE SUGAR BEET.**—The exertions of the public spirited men who a few years since, succeeded in introducing the culture of the Sugar Beet into this country have been abundantly rewarded—not precisely in the way they anticipated, namely, the production of sugar, but in the still more valuable products of the dairy and the supplies for the larder, as well as the improvement of every kind of stock. Two tons of hay per acre, is regarded as a fine crop, whereas more than twenty tons of the Sugar Beet may be raised on the same extent of land. By means of this juicy and highly nutritious root, the refreshment and other useful qualities of some pasture may be secured to cattle, and every other kind of domestic animal throughout the whole winter. The advantages derived from this source to the dairy, in the increased quantity and improved quality of milk and fresh butter, during the absence of pasture, are incalculable.

**TO PREPARE JUNKET.**—Take a quart of milk warm from the cow, and stir in a tea-spoonful of rennet, and let it stand till curdled, which, if the rennet is of proper strength will be in about fifteen minutes; grate over it a little nutmeg, and sweeten with maple molasses or honey. It is an excellent dish for supper. [In Scotland, cream is used instead of nutmeg and molasses.—Ed.]