

place them in different parts of their district, allow 60 ewes to go to each, taking care that no lambs or unhealthy sheep are put to them; in two years they can change them about, allowing the shearing ewes of one run to be served by the other, at the end of four years they could be sold and others bought, and the same course pursued; the first cross will make a marked difference, and the fourth will be but little inferior to the pure breed. Such a course persevered in would be attended with the best results; but the importation of a few animals now and then is of no good whatever, it must be continued regularly until the breed is stamped upon the sheep of the district, by that time the farmers will find the advantage and the profit of them, and should the society then discontinue the importation the demand will have been created, and plenty will be found to supply it.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

As an old member of various agricultural societies in this province, and as a member of the society in this town, constituted under the recent act, I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of the first five numbers of your Journal.

This morning in calling at the office of one of the respected members of parliament for this county, I found him engaged in writing you a letter on the condition and prospects of agriculture in this neighbourhood.

Commending his object and his industry, my conscience suggested the question, "What have I done myself to aid the noble cause?"

I frankly confessed to my friend that his conduct was worthy of imitation; so at his request I came home, resolved to give you my best thoughts on the subject.

And the first is this: that I highly approve of the energetic action of the government in their efforts to stimulate the mind of the province, and bring it to bear on the amount and quality of our agricultural productions.

The second is, that I also highly approve of the establishment among ourselves of a Journal of Agriculture, in which may be preserved, the thoughts, the reflections, and the practical experiments made in our province by our practical farmers, our amateurs, and our housewives.

The third thought is, that I entirely disapprove of the efforts made by some portions of our provincial press to crush this nascent Hercules in his cradle. They seem to think that because our journal is not equal to the older periodicals, we ought to be satisfied with the latter, and abandon our design. But in a world like this, sir, literature in all its departments, and in all latitudes, must pass through its

stages of infancy and youth before it arrives at manhood. Your oak was once an acorn.

My last reflection for the present is, that those croaking gentlemen had better devote their powers to the improvement of native production, homespun, though it be, than to think nothing good which is not of foreign manufacture. For my own part, I read with great interest the reports of our own societies, the remarks of our own farmers, and the suggestions of our own fruit culturists and gardeners; and whilst I would by no means depreciate the value of older and more elaborate papers emanating from other quarters, I trust that the sons and daughters of our soil will have self-interest enough to give a spirited support to a journal specially charged with the advancement of our homesteads, and of our own fertile valleys and hills.

In this, as in every other good cause, the head and the hand must work together; and I have lived long enough to see that an ignorant farmer is like a dull axe or a lame horse. The metaphor needs no explanation.

Lunenburg, July, 1865.

LECTOR.

[We regret that the publication of our respected correspondent's communication has been necessarily delayed so long. Ed.]

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

## ON MANURE.

NO. V.

Such an amazing number of books and other disquisitions have been written concerning manure, that it is almost impossible to say anything new about it, all that is left for its zealous advocates to do, is to lecture on it, in season and out of season, and to show up its importance in every way they possibly can. It is nevertheless an almost inexhaustible subject, and although every one (in the country at the least) is aware of the importance of it, in all farming operations, how very few there are, who by their mode of saving, or making it, appear to understand or appreciate the importance of this simple item, either to their own individual prosperity or to the general prosperity of the country, and fewer still there are who know that the sources from whence manures, or fertilizers can be obtained are quite as inexhaustible as the subject.

All cities act as mighty and exhaustive drains of the lands strength—the vast amount of food consumed by their inhabitants, being just so much abstracted from the productive power of the soil, and with but very little prospect of its ever going back to it. This makes it all the more necessary, not only to save it,

and make more, but also to procure all the auxiliary help possible.

The artificial manures and guano have been the chief means of giving an extra impulse to agriculture in the old countries, and in many worn out sections of even our new countries on this side the Atlantic.

When a farmer has done all he possibly can to save and increase his domestic manure, he very naturally looks abroad for more, but as a general rule he should not send his capital away, for after his labor has done all it can cleverly find time to do, there will no doubt be many ways still left, by which any spare money he may have could be profitably employed in making his means of saving more efficient. It is very seldom that we see all done that may be done—let him look to his hog-manure, his hen ditto, and back house stuff, his slops, his ashes, bones, &c. Why, there is almost an endless variety of manures on a farm, and a liberal and judicious outlay of capital is often better employed in composting and improving these than in buying other auxiliaries or artificial manures.

A man may nevertheless be so circumstanced that he cannot possibly do all that he really wishes to do, he may for instance find something to occupy his spare time with, which may turn in more money than may cover all his manure heap may suffer from partially neglecting it; and thus may counterbalance this loss by purchasing with a portion of the money so gained, as much artificial manure as will make up for it, or after making, and using all he can upon his land near home, he may desire to improve his pastures, and outgoing fields with some top-dressing not quite so bulky as barn-yard manure or compost. In such cases it certainly would be commendable for him to purchase the most reliable auxiliary he can get, say either guano, bone-dust, or superphosphate of lime. A few hundred-weights of these will spread over a considerable piece of ground; and as a general rule (if good) will make the land yield a much better crop. Pure guano is the strongest, but least certain of these; bone dust (in sufficient quantity) lasts the longest, and is always certain and reliable, and good superphosphate of lime while it is equally as certain as bone-dust, is a quicker manure, but does not last so long in the soil. I believe they are all three to be had in Halifax; but I cannot say from experience whether they are of a reliable quality or not. However, it is not very expensive trying them and I would decidedly recommend all who are in the right position to afford it, to try a sprinkling of the superphosphate on their worn out pastures, for as a general rule our pastures are universally poor and cattle do not thrive upon them as they ought.

BEDFORD.