

EUROPEAN HARVESTS.

Another brilliant week has further re-deemed the present summer from the bad character it commenced with, and, so far as wheat is concerned, it could not have been better, the occasional coolness experienced rendering too hasty a maturity of the grain, and contrary to all expectations, we can announce that we are on the eve of harvest. Samples of ripe grain have been exhibited at market from the neighborhood of London of full average quality, though rather short. Others, however, have appeared thoroughly blighted from Essex, where we hear there is much of foot-rot, occasioned by excessively wet chills on a forward growth; others much blighted have been exhibited from the Fens. The well-drained loams will therefore, as usual, carry the day, and the excessively heavy as well as the light lands are to go short. Hungary has about finished, with a good quality but doubtful yield, as have Italy, the south of France and Spain; but there are yet complaints of backwardness and some rough weather in the north of Europe, while nearly the whole has yet to be gathered before we know what is our general stock of food. Prices as yet have stood remarkably well for the unexpected fineness of the weather; but there has been a decline generally of 1s. in this country, and about the same in France and Belgium. The barley and peas are said to be suffering for want of rain, as well as oats, potatoes and many esculents; but there seem many indications that this is not far off, and our only hope is that it will be smart and transient, lest the main crop should suffer. Of the course of the crops in Europe we do not hear universally favorable reports; and though we would hope for the best, no great, if any, surplus is to be reckoned on.—Mark-Lane "Express."

WHAT FARMERS CANNOT CONCEAL.—A poor farmer cannot conceal the fact that he is a poor farmer. All his surroundings proclaim the verdict against him:—his horses, cattle, waggons, harness, ploughs, fences, fields—even his wife and children bear silent, but unmistakable evidence against him. On the other hand, all these things will testify favorably on behalf of the good farmer.—Every passer by can read the evidence pro or con. This fact alone ought to stimulate every farmer to do his best, for the sake of his own character, as well as interest; for he may rest assured that every passer by will pronounce judgment according to the evidence.

A Scotch professor, in his walks about Aberdeen, met a well-known "habitué" of the town, of weak intellect. "Pray," said the professor, accosting him, "how old can a person live without brains?" "I denna ken," replied Jemmy, scratching his head, "how auld are ye yerself?"

The following notice was pasted on a large box which passed over the Pacific Railroad a few days since: Baggage-smashers are requested to handle this box with care, as it contains nitroglycerine, Greek fire, gun-cotton, and two live gorillas.

A PATERFAMILIAS, who was investigating the cause of a fearful racket in the dormitory, was met with this explanation: "I just pummelled Harry a little, because, you see, the duced torment wouldn't let me say my prayers."

Said Lord John Russel to Mr. Hume, at a public dinner: "What do you consider the object of legislation?" "The greatest good to the greatest number." "What do you consider the greatest number?" continued his lordship. "Number one," was the Commoner's prompt reply.

Answer to Puzzle in Last Month's Number.

The only correct answer returned from the puzzle in last month's number is from M. Hunter, West Gwillimbury. Answer to the Wonderful Prophet.—The Cock.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

The rotation of crops has not always been practiced. Farms were formerly divided into meadow, plough or tillage land, and pasture; and each section was permanently used for these specific purposes, till the meadows were covered with moss, and the tillage ground was so impoverished as to yield inferior crops. Under this system, meadows were frequently restored by means of top-dressing, and tillage land was restored by what is called a fallow. There is a serious objection to this mode of farming. For during the continuance of it, the use of the land lost, the same as the use of money is lost, if permitted to lie idle without drawing interest. The very idea of a fallow is, the ground is let alone to produce just what springs up spontaneously, or nothing at all; and whatever does thus spring up, is permitted to remain and decay where it grew.

The Flemings are the first known to have resorted to the rotation system for keeping the soil in a proper state. They insisted that where it was practiced, the land did not need rest; and, it was this system which gave their husbandry a preeminence over that of every other country at that period. They relied so much upon it, that in some instances, they were able to obtain two crops in the same year. In Scotland, it has been scrupulously pursued with the very best results. It was also introduced into England, and is become general there; and it is now constantly gaining advocates in this country.

The greatest benefit is to be received from that species of alternation in crops, which is made between culmiferous and leguminous crops. The former includes wheat, oats, barley, rye, Indian corn, tobacco, and most of the grasses. The latter include peas, beans, other pulse, potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, cabbage, and clover. Accordingly it has by some been adopted, that good husbandry requires that these two classes should follow each other uninterruptedly, unless where grass is made to intervene; the farmer, however, selecting whatever particular ones from each of these classes he may think best.

The basis of this classification of plants, is

as follows: Culmiferous plants are termed robbers or exhausters of the soil. They are particularly so, during the process of maturing their seeds. Hence, if cut green or when in blossom, they are far less exhausting. Leguminous plants, as a class, are far less exhausting; in the first place, because only a few of these mature their seeds—and, in the second place, all of them having broad leaves, draw more moisture from the atmosphere than the narrow leaved plants which compose the culmiferous class. Also the roots of culmiferous plants are generally more fibrous and more divided, spreading themselves near the surface, and draw their nourishment principally from the upper of the soil. Leguminous roots are generally spindle formed, having what is called a tap root, with few radicals, and consequently draw most of their nourishment from the lower stratum of the soil, and through the lower extremities of their roots. An eminent chemist says, that plants exhaust only that portion of the soil which comes in contact with their roots; and spindle root may be able to draw an abundance of nourishment from land, the surface of which has been exhausted by short, or creeping roots. The same writer remarks, that the roots of plants of the same or analogous species, always take a like direction, if situated in a soil which allows them a free development; and thus they pass through, and are supported by, the same layers of earth.

The following fact may be given in confirmation of this theory. It is proverbial that trees of the same species will not flourish in succession in the same place. Hence, if a worn out peach orchard is to be removed, and young trees of the same species are to occupy the same ground, instead of being planted in the holes from which the old ones were taken, they must be arranged in rows intermediate to the old ones. So likewise in regard to all fruit trees, unless a suitable period has been allowed for producing the decomposition of the roots of the removed trees, and thus supplying the earth with fresh manure.

CHARLES L. MANLEY,

St. Catharines.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

The boar that I purchased from you last fall, has proved the most profitable animal I ever had on my farm. He is well liked by all that have seen him. He is improving the stock of this township. I have had 130 sows brought to him at \$1 each. I have sold four young pigs I raised from him for \$36, making a total of \$166 in cash. He has vastly improved my stock, and the hog is as good as ever.

JOHN KENNEDY,

Hyde Park.

MR. WELD:—The bushel of wheat I got from you in the spring, yielded a good crop, the Westwell oats were a far better crop than my other oats, growing side by side.

D. HARRISON,

Russel, Ont.