

field with phosphoric acid sufficient for the production of 3820 lbs. of straw. The same author recommends the use of bone manure, as they possess 55 per cent of the phosphates of lime and magnesia. He says, "the more finely the bones are reduced to powder, and the more intimately they are mixed with the soil, the more easily are they assimilated." He further states, "the most easy and practical mode of effecting their division is to pour over the bones, in a state of fine powder, half of their weight of sulphuric acid diluted with three or four parts of water, and after they have been digested for some time, to add one hundred parts of water and sprinkle the mixture over the field before the plough, in the same way as any other liquid manure. In a few seconds, the free acids unite with the basis contained in the earth, and a neutral salt is formed in a very fine state of division." This mode of applying this manure is said to cause plants to thrive with great vigour and only 40 lbs. of bone-dust is applied, thus prepared, to the acre. This quantity, however, we consider much less than would be necessary to maintain the fertility of a soil, though it might supply it with all that was required of the phosphates, which is so essential to the production of good wheat and clover; but some other manure should be applied with this quantity of bones. Liebig says again:—"It must be admitted as a principle of agriculture, that those substances which have been removed from the soil must be completely restored to it, and whether this restoration be effected by means of excrement, ashes, or bones, is in a great measure a matter of indifference." This is an established fact that should be remembered by all farmers, and if they act according to this principle, they will never suffer their lands to become exhausted. There is nothing utterly lost or annihilated which the land produces, it only assumes another form. The farmers' care must be to bring back to the soil what it formerly produced, into whatever form it may have been changed after its production. Much of what has originally been produced from the soil is wasted in its new form, by being suffered to remain inactive, and not applying it properly, so that it would directly yield a new production. A very large quantity of manure is thus lost in our Canadian cities and towns. In Montreal in particular, immense quantities of manure goes into the St. Lawrence; and we have constantly witnessed the wasting of excellent manure in filling up streets, &c., &c., when abundance of stone might be had for that purpose convenient and cheap. In England, almost every particle of manure that is made in cities, towns, and villages is carefully preserved and again applied to the soil. Even the drains and sewers contribute to this manure. It is by the careful collection and judicious application of manure, that the fertility of a country under arable culture can alone be maintained. In Eastern Canada we have sufficient proof throughout the country, that this system was never understood or practiced, and the consequence is the exhaustion of the soil and the deficiency of crops. And until the system is changed for a better, we need not expect that profitable crops will be produced. If we leave the soil of Canada to itself, it will produce a most luxuriant forest of beautiful trees; but it would be unreasonable to expect that it would continue to yield us a new produce annually, and that we should rob it of all this produce without returning any part of it to the

soil. Mother earth is very bountiful, but we may exhaust her of all power to be so, by constantly robbing her, and in this way she has been generally treated by her children in Canada. We thought it might not be unacceptable to our Subscribers to submit the foregoing observations respecting manure, at this particular season of the year that most of it is made and collected for future use upon the farm. No improvement can be effected in agriculture without an abundant supply of manure however obtained, and there is now much information in our power as to the means of increasing manure to almost any extent required. We have seen in a late English paper, a plan suggested for constructing barn-threshing floors, with wooden pavements such as those in use in the streets of London. The blocks are penned together; they require no sleepers; but are laid upon a firm cement foundation, thus affording an elastic and improved floor for threshing; and being one solid mass is impervious to rats. The cost might exceed planked floors, but we have no doubt that floors made on the plan proposed would be the best and cheapest in the end. We are happy to have it in our power to state that there is some business doing this winter in Montreal, in preparing pork and hams for the English market, and it is very probable that by the time this pork and hams reach the markets of that country, the prices will be improved, provided there is not a very large supply shipped to England from the United States. If this should be the case, we cannot compete profitably with them—it is folly to expect it. The advantages of free trade in provisions has had a long trial with us, and we certainly cannot show any proofs that we prospered much by its means. We might now make the experiment what a restricted trade might produce to us, and encourage and protect our own industry. If we do not become more prosperous under protection and encouragement than we have been under the operation of free trade, our case is indeed a hopeless one, and the country not worth living in.

Cote St. Paul, 21st February, 1843.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

FEBRUARY, 1843.

Agricultural produce of every description has been extremely low in the markets of Canada East for the last three months. The price of Butcher's meat has advanced a shade latterly, but is still low. Pork was for 15s. to 17s. 6d. per 100 lbs., but is now about 20s. Beef is also higher than it was at the time of our last Report. Good beef sells for 17s. 6d. to 25s. per 100 lbs., inferior 12s. 6d. to 15s. per 100 lbs. The retail price of beef is from 2d. to 4d. per lb., and of pork from 2d. to 3d. per lb., or perhaps a little over occasionally. Good mutton about 4d. per lb., inferior about half that price. Veal of good quality 3d. to 3½d. per lb., inferior 1s. 3d. to 3s. 9d. per quarter. Geese from 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d.; Turkeys from 1s. 8d. to 3s. 4. each; Fowls 1s. to 1s. 3d. per couple. Fresh butter from 7½d. to 9d. per lb. Salt from 5d. to 6d. per lb. Cheese 2d. to 4d. per lb. The market is abundantly supplied with all these articles, and with vegetables and fruit that are sold cheap. The grain market has not been so low for several years. Wheat very little in market, and at 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per minut. Barley from 1s. 10½d. to 2s. 6d.; Oats from 8d. to 1s.; Rye 2s. Buckwheat 2s.; Peas 1s. 8d. to 2s.; Indira corn 2s. to 2s. 3s.; Flax seed 2s. to 3s. per minut; Oatmeal from 6s. to 6s. 6d. per 112 lbs. Fine

flour per barrel from 20s. to 21s. 6d.; Coarse per cwt, 11s. Potatoes 10d. to 1s. 3d. per minut. Hay 10s. to 15s. per 1,600 lbs.; Straw 7s. 6d. to 9s. per 1,200 lbs., and hay and straw often remain over unsold for two or three days; and hence the whole price obtained for it is not sufficient to pay the expenses of sale, weighing, turnpike, &c. The farmer has to weigh and pay every day it is kept over unsold, and this charge alone takes a considerable proportion of the price of a load kept over two or three days, or perhaps more, and this we consider an unwarrantable charge, when the price of the article is so extremely low. Once paying, what is certainly a high charge for weighing, ought to satisfy the demands of our city authorities, and if a poor farmer could not sell his load the first day, he should not be charged for weighing the second or third day. Indeed if the price of hay was even remunerating we do not think a second, third, or fourth charge for weighing the same load a just one, or one that ought to be demanded. The farmer as the purchaser and consumer of goods that pay city taxes, contributes his proportion to those taxes, and therefore he should not be taxed directly and heavily for the weighing his hay and straw to support city expenditure. There is another very great drawback to the sellers of hay and straw in the Montreal market: the buyers seldom come to market, or at least do not often buy until late in the evening, however low the price. Hence, both men and horses are worn out by cold and fatigue, and the day is generally expired before their hay is off their hands, and perhaps they have a distance of from twelve to thirty miles to go home. This waste of time, and cause of great injury to men and horses, might be avoided by a regulation to close the market at two or three o'clock in the afternoon, and all hay and straw not then sold, to be put up for the next day. This may be said, would be an arbitrary regulation, but it certainly would not be more so than some other regulations that we might name, and it would have this recommendation, that it would be favourable to farmers, their servants, and horses. Few of the other classes in Montreal, would wish to suffer the same exposure for eight or ten hours of the coldest days, and in the most exposed situation within the city. When it would be understood that the market would be closed at a certain hour, the buyer and seller would prepare for this, and do business in proper time. We are confident that the waste of time, injury to horses, and expenses in taverns, that are the consequence of the present mode of doing business in our hay and straw market, is a loss to the farmer this year of low prices, of more than one-third of the whole amount he receives for what he sells. Unless there is some regulation to cure this evil, it never will cure itself, because the buyers of hay and straw may consider it will be for their interest that matters should continue as at present.

Good Advice.—If your coat is comfortable, wear it two or three months longer; no matter if the gloss is off. If you have no wife, get one; if you have, God bless her; stay at home with her, instead of spending your evenings in expensive fooleries. Be honest, frugal, plain—seek content and happiness at home—be industrious and persevering; and our word for it, if you are in debt you will soon get out of it; if your circumstances are now embarrassed, they will soon become easy, no matter who may be President, or what may be the price of stocks. —*Boo. Cul.*