

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

KIND WORDS.

MR. WELD—Dear Sir—I have watched with profound interest, to see what would be the result of your unexampled exertions in the cause of agriculture. The farmers of Canada owe you a debt of gratitude, which, I am afraid, they will be slow to repay. I, for one, have had it on my mind a long time to write you my approval of your proceedings. Your paper is just the one the farmers of Canada need, and I believe, will in a little time supercede every other, notwithstanding the assistance which they may receive from the public purse. The Agricultural Emporium may, if properly conducted and supported, be of incalculable benefit to the agriculturists of Canada, and is deserving of universal support. I should be glad to aid in its support if you will only inform me how to do it. I send you herewith a paper of Mammoth Pumpkin or Kentucky Squash, which I consider worthy of notice. You can dispose of them as you think proper. I have raised them several years. They took the first prize at the last exhibition in London, and also the first prize at every county exhibition in West Middlesex. Last year was not a very good season for them, my largest weighed 96lbs. they have reached 268 lbs.

Yours truly,

RICHARD SAUL.

Strathroy, April 1st. 1868.

—It has been beautifully said that "the veil which covers the face of futurity is woven by the hand of mercy."

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

ARTIFICIAL MANURE.

MR. EDITOR—Dear Sir—Believing you to take a very great pleasure and interest in the welfare of agriculture, I therefore beg the privilege of a space in your valuable paper, for the purpose of making a few remarks, and giving your readers the results of some experiments with artificial manure. My connection with agricultural pursuits commenced in childhood, and has engaged my attention to the present time, a period of over thirty-five years, having had in addition the management of a large manure business for the last four years. My first trial commenced with guano, which cost me seventy dollars per ton, and was used for raising turnips at 5 cwt per acre. The crop a fair one, but the crop raised after was a poor affair taking into consideration the outlay, so I determined to try Superphosphate and Guano mixed together, with much the same results as former trials. The next result was made with bones, having heard them spoken very highly of. The first lot was broken with a large

hammer on an old anvil, and of course some were not broken very small, and they were used directly, and experience taught me in that state they were not quick enough for turnips, and they were a partial failure. My next plan was to dissolve them with sulphuric acid, knowing but little of its properties. I used it a few days after making, and the consequence of my ignorance was the destruction of all the seed, and the trouble of sowing again, but I had a first rate crop and gained a little valuable experience into the bargain. I followed this plan for some three years and thought it could not be beat, but having a book put into my hands by a friend, on Agricultural Chemistry, that advocated the use of the bone, but managed in a different way to what I had done. The bones were to be ground to powder, after which they were to be mixed up with urine from the cattle tank, just in the same way you would mix soft mortar, and put in a dry place to be allowed time to ferment and decompose. I would prefer to let them lay six months turning them a few times, and mixing as above. Of course you would not do it so as to have it wet when you wanted to sow it. I must tell you by the way, that my hammer system was now thrown aside, and a bone mill to supply its place, having a water-power threshing-machine on the farm, which now worked the both, my former experiments had by this time been developed, and my first bone trial which gave me anything but satisfaction in the first crop, proved in after-grain and grass crops, the best of any of my former trials, the grain being much heavier and finer. My next difficulty was how to get so small a portion evenly over the land when used for grain. I need not tell you the trials and disappointments experienced in the way of getting a Drill to answer the purpose. Suffice it to say after many alterations, the desired end was accomplished. The Drill would sow grain alone, or grain and bone-dust together, and grass seed at the same time from a separate seed box. It would also sow Turnips, using the grain-box for manure, and the Grass seed box for the seed. This answered well as the seed received the full benefit of the manure.

My object in writing this is to try to induce some of your practical farmers to join together, say six of them, and get a Bone Mill and manufacture the manure themselves. There are large quantities of Bones laying about and plenty boys in your towns and villages to gather them, if they could sell them to pay for the trouble. There is also some valuable refuse from your Woollen Manufactories, Tan Yards and Curriers Shops to make Superphosphate. I may state that the mill can be worked by horses in the winter, when other work on the farm is not pressing, the mill will also chop all the feed required for cattle, thereby saving the expense and trouble of taking to the Grist Mill. Should any of your readers determine to have a mill while I am here, not knowing how long I may remain, I shall be most happy to give them the plan of constructing it, also the way to make the phosphate.

If agreeable, in your next issue, I will give you some account of the value of Bones in England, and a few of the uses they are put to, likewise what phosphates are made from.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

Rednorsville, April 23d, 1868.

MR. EDITOR.—As you have made some very urgent requests to the readers of the *Farmer's Advocate* to write something, I begin to think you mean it, and I have come to the conclusion that you are our best friend, and have our interests at heart, so I venture for the first time to take my pen with confidence feeling that my efforts will not be subject to the scrutiny of some city editor, but the farmer's friend who will correct and revise, and if unworthy, not to give it publication.

How I raised water melons in three months.—The land was prepared in the fall, manured upon the surface with well-rotted manure. I planted them thick in hills, three or four feet apart, and when the third leaf is out thinned to three or four plants. The ground should be well stirred when dry.

How I raised early Potatoes.—I sprout my potatoes in the house. I put earth in a box, and keep the seed damp until sprouted. Plant in raised hills with a little well rotted manure.

Would you be kind enough Mr. Editor, to inform me through the *Advocate* how to manure corn in the hill.

L. A.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

EARNESTNESS.

As I see in the *Farmer's Advocate* that there is an offer of a prize made to any one who will write an article of use and importance to the farmer, or the best original article on any topic of importance to the country. Well, I don't pretend to think that I shall have any chance, but I have been particularly interested in the *Advocate* since I seen it in my neighbor's house, and as we live back in the bush, and are in a great degree deprived of every advantage of instructing our children in the very important branch of farming, such instruction we will be able I feel sure to find in the *Advocate*.

I am a mother, and am interested in the welfare of my children, as they will most probably all be farmers. I give the following receipts, as they may be found well worthy of a trial.

It is of importance to the tired farmer when all the toil of the day is over, and he is so tired and full of pain, sometimes in the head, from the effects of the sun and fatigue of body, to know of a soothing balm whereby he can sleep sound all night. He can do this by filling a small bag with hops, and placing it under his head every night. Let this be his pillow, and I am sure of his life and health being prolonged. And again, if he will drink half a cup of hop tea every night, he will do better.

A SURE CURE FOR ERESIPELAS.—When in the head use green copperas water on a cloth. Keep the cloth wet. It is the best cure in the world, as the writer has proved it.

FOR INFLAMMATION ON THE LIVER.—Take fifteen drops of laudanum at intervals, till the pain leaves. This has been a secret given to me by a surgeon, but as it may be of service to many, and has been to me, I give it freely.

MRS. P. MATTHEWS,

Uffington, Ontario.