Notes from my Garden—No. 2.

In my last letter in speaking of potatoes, I made the remark that we were all agreed that small potatoes were not good for seed. Now I wish to qualify that assertion. On account of shortness of seed, I was compelled this Spring to use about half a bushel of very small Early Rose potatoes for planting.

I was rather in doubts as to what my crop would be, fearing that although I might have quantity, the quality would be poor. I was, however, agreeably surprised to find that the potatoes were both numerous and large; in fact, as fine a crop as I ever had. It may be that the deterioration would not be apparent in one year; my seed was probably from good stock of the previous year. It is quite possible that if I planted the present potatoes next year, I would be more able to see the diminution in size. It has certainly been always my experience, that "Like produces like."

POTATO BUGS.

We were in a great fright in the beginning o the year about our striped friends. Just as soon as the potato leaf appeared above ground it was attacked, and in many cases eaten off, and away down in the ground by the side of the stalk we could find our friends at work.—You could even see them straddling the fences, in order to have a good outlook and get the first chance at any unfortunate potato which arrived above ground. Many of my neighbors gave up the potato crop as a bad job and let the bugs take possession. I, however, am an Irishman, and cannot get along without my national diet, and also being of a pugnacious disposition determined to have a fair fight for it. I used both Vermatoxa and Paris Green, and am thankful to say, came off victorious.

BUTTER BEANS.

Do you know the broad white bean which bears this name? It is delicious eating and very productive. I planted a row of them along the back of my house and trained them up all over it. They will make, I should say, a vine of about 20 feet long, covered with broad green leaves and great clusters of very large pods. The beans are eaten shelled like peas, and are beautiful. The vine would be nice to cover an arbor, or to shade a house.

TURNIPS.

When my peas and lettuce and early potatoes came off the ground I was determined not to allow it to lie idle, and therefore sowed it with turnips, White Stone and White Globe—They are doing well, and I will have a capital second crop off my land. I often wonder why farmers don't oftener seed turnips after they take off the fall wheat. What fine food they would make for the cattle during the fall; for the sheep especially.

SOWING SEED IN THE FALL.

As an experiment, I will this year sow Carrots, Parsnips, Lettuce and Onions late in the fall, and let the seed lie in the ground over winter. I have heard good reports from some gardeners about the fall sowing of Parsnips.—I have myself had some of my best Lettuce from self-sown patches, so I don't know but the other seeds may likewise do well. Of course I will work up the ground very thoroughly in the fall, and have channels for the surface water of the spring to escape readily. In the Southern States onions cannot be grown from seed in one year. Early in the fall the seed is sown, and small bulbs or sets are formed which are taken up and planted out the following year.—This is the right way to manage the Italian varities of onions in this country.

PEAS.

I tried the Early Rennie Pea this year and like it. It is both early and productive. The seed is small but one of the wrinkled kind, and is a good size when green. It is sweet and well tasted. Some of my friends sowed peas late last fall and had a very early crop this year. I may possibly try the same experiment. In a garden you must stake your peas. It is a slovenly practice to do otherwise, and also a wasteful one. Use the trimmings from your trees and bushes, or go to the woods and get proper stakes. They will last a long time if care is taken of them.

CORN FOR FODDER.

I notice an article in your last number, advising the use of sweet corn fodder in preference to Western corn fodder, and I agree with you most decidedly. Let any person taste the two and he will not hesitate to choose the sweet corn. Of course it will not produce the bulk, but it is the right article to make milk and butter with. I notice in some of my American papers that the leading dairymen there are in accord with you on this subject. Undoubtedly the bulk in the Western corn will help the poor farmer to worry through the winter, but the profits from the sweet corn will answer better.

NEW SEEDS.

It astonishes me that our farmers do not go more extensively into new seeds. It is so evident that all who do so make money out of it that there is no excuse for neglecting. It takes but a few more bushels to the acre of any grain to more than repay the extra expense of the seed, that it ought not to require such extra inducements to introduce a good article. Just see, for instance, this SCOTT WHEAT, which you have been instrumental in introducing. I know farmers who sowed it alongside of Treadwell, which is itself a good wheat, and actually obtained ten bushels to the acre more from the Scott than the Treadwell. These may be exceptional cases, but I know that they occur very frequently.

Next month I will be better able to get reports from my experiments, as I will then be getting my crops stored away for the winter.

PROGRESS.

Pasturing too Much.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes to the *Country Gentleman* on pasturing too much as follows:—

"Good, permanent grass lands, sure for a fair yield of hay or pasture, cannot be pastured to the best advantage. A portion of the growth that may be secured for hay is lost in a pasture. Land covered by droppings of stock cannot produce grass, and the rank growth surrounding it will be left The hoofs of cattle, especially of horses and colts, tread out and prevent the growth of not a little grass. And then, unless the field is fed very close, more or less will get old and dry and not be eaten at all, and, strange as it may appear, land improves faster when in meadow than when in pasture. The growth in a meadow makes a thicker and better sod and a much larger growth of grass and clover roots, and both are left to gradually improve the soil. True, this depends in some measure on the treatment the meadow receives. If fed closely from the time the hay is removed until winter and, perhaps, to some extent in the spring there may be very little improvement, while the grass will be more likely to run out. If not fed close and something is left to protect the soil and grass plants in hot weather as well as through the winter, the crops will be better, the grass hold out longer and the improvement of the land be more sure and decided.

"It may not be well too leave too large a growth on the land through the winter, at least not enough to smother the plants or induce mice to live and work under the dead grass; but this is seldom the case—most farmers err the other way. Perhaps two cuttings for hay—one early and the other not far from the first of September (the fall growth being left on the land)—will do well."

An acquaintance of many years with some of the best grass lands of the Old Country has led us to form opinions very different from those of the correspondent. We have known grass lands to pay in fattening cattle a clear profit of from three to six pounds sterling in five months. It is true those parts covered by the droppings of the cattle and the rank grass surrounding these spots were left untouched by the cattle for the season, but the areas occupied by them was comparatively trifling, and the next season these places produced the most luxurious grass, highly relished by the cattle. They were so productive that it was estimated that they payed well for the few weeks or months that they were not grazed on. Some stock feeders had these little mounds of dropping scattered over the fields when the cattle were changed for a time to another pasture, and then, when they were in the course of rotation, taken back to the field so treated. The fertility arising from the droppings was equally distributed, and no little spots were so rank as to remain ungrazed. Some of this grass land I knew that had been so pastured for fourteen years, some over twenty and some still longer, and the pasturage, so far from deteriorating, was, if there was any change, improving, though the improvement in it was scarcely perceptible. It was never eaten very close, and what remained old and dry served as an excellent mulching during the winter, and the result was that the land so treated gives the earliest good, rich pasturage the following May and during the summer.

So far from hay enriching the land, as pasturing it did, meadows required periodical top-dressing to keep up their productiveness. Whenever it could be done, as was not unfrequently the case with low *bottom* meadows, they were irrigated; but, in most cases, they were top-dressed with composts, ashes or farmyard manure. There seems to be an impression among not a few in this hemisphere that pasturing instead of enriching the land tends rather to its impoverishment; but that it is improving by pasture is the conviction of those who have the most experience in agriculture. So well known is this to farmers and farm laborers that they speak of improving land by pasturing it—by the familiar expression—"Letting the land rest." It is true land can be kept in a high state of fertility while tilling it successively, as in a system of rotation, as we have here now recommended, but this can only be accomplished by manure being applied liberally and frequently; and it is said that, notwithstanding the high farming necessary in such a system, the land will, after the lapse of some years, be the better to be *let rest*. May not nature during this period of rest be exerting necessery recuperative powers. Why is it that pasturing land enriches it and mowing the grass for hay impoverishes it? Every crop of grass or anything else takes from the land at least a portion of plant food. This is carried away off the land in hay; it is returned to the land in the droppings left by the cattle pastured on it, and by a fertilizing, though unseen, substance communicated to the soil through the pores of the animals. Their very lying on it serves to enrich it; how much more their droppings!

The Phylloxena.

The *Garden* gives the following practical direction respecting that destructive pest of the grape vine, the Phylloxena, or grape root louse.

Sulpuret of calcium dug in around the roots of vines is considered to have a powerful effect in destroying Phylloxena. This gives rise to a true sulphuric acid, in consequence of the moisture of the soil, and the gentle disengagement of carbonic acid. It serves also equally well to destroy caterpillars and other injurious insects, which are frequently so difficult to remove from vegetation.

This insect is said to have given more trouble to the growers of vines in America than by any other disease or enemy to which it is subject.

Effects of the severe winter in Iowa. A correspondent of the *Gardner's Monthly* says fully one half the young apple trees in North Western nurseries were killed by the winter.

Arborvitae is transplanted in this part of the world all through the summer season. The earth has to be tightly packed round the roots, and this tight packing is not merely a light performance by heel and toe, but a ramming as if one was setting a post. If the weather be dry, or likely to be dry, water is given with the plant at planting. Unless the season is a very extraordinary one, or the situation very dry, they will grow at any season. There is some risk in all.

Mettalic soap for canvas.—"The following is recommended as a cheap and simple process for coating canvas for waggon tops, tents, awnings, &c. It renders it impermeable to moisture, without making it stiff and liable to break. Soft soap is to be dissolved in hot water, and a solution of sulphate of iron added. The sulphuric acid combines with the potash of the soap, and the oxide of iron is precipitated with the acid as insoluble iron soap. This is washed and dried, and mixed with linseed oil. The addition of dissolved India rubber to the oil greatly improves the paint."—*Journal of Applied Chemistry.*

Milk Poison.—For a long time it has been observed that the milk of cows, drinking from stagnant pools and mud holes, soon becomes bad and is the fruitful source of floating curds during hot weather. In St. Lawrence county a noted dairyman stated to us that during a certain dry season, he was unable to make good butter from the milk of his cows, yet his neighbours had no difficulty. His pastures were not well provided with water, and the cows were forced to drink from sloughs and frog-ponds. He tried for a long time to discover the cause of the trouble in his butter, and at last suspected that it came from the water the cows were drinking. Then he sunk a well and obtained an abundant supply of good clear, water for his herd, and he had no difficulty in making sweet butter and as good as could be procured by his neighbors.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker.*

Mr. G. Martin, whose sale of Ayrshires is advertised in this paper, desires us to state that his intention is to sell annually a number of Ayrshire cattle at each Provincial Exhibition in Ontario. The stock will be sold without any reservation whatever, and no one will be employed to buy in. Mr. Martin considers Ayrshire cattle decidedly the most profitable for Canadians, and the only cattle that can be wintered sufficiently well on straw and turnips, and give a profitable flow of milk the same season.

POULTRY YARD

HEALTHY HEN ROOSTS.

If we would keep poultry in a healthy state during the winter, the hennery must have its house-cleaning as well as the dwelling house.—Clean out the nest boxes, and whitewash them inside and out, ready for another spring; and when fresh hay or straw is put in, sprinkle a handful of flour of sulphur into each: paint the roosts well with petroleum oil or kerosene.

Clean out all the earth underneath the hen roosts, and sprinkle fresh sand or loam over the whole floor of the room. If this is well attended to every autumn, there will be no danger of diseased, vermin-covered poultry, but the whole stock will be in a healthy condition. Next see that there is a good supply of pure water every morning for their use.

There is a receipt for keeping fowls healthy, which has been sold under the titles of "Universal Poultry Drops," and "Poultry Keeper's Friend," and its use has been found very beneficial for all kinds of poultry. To half a lb. of sulphate of iron add one ounce of diluted sulphuric acid, and pour it into two gallons of water; let it stand fourteen days after bottling it, and then put a teaspoonful to every pint of water, every other day, and let the fowls drink it freely. Chickens should have the same amount about twice a week.

The effect of this stimulant is soon apparent; the feathers of the birds will assume a rich, glossy appearance, and the whole flock will be in the best possible health and spirits. If poultry are affected with the dry roup, this remedy will prove a cure, and will ward it off from flocks that are not tainted. With a little attention to cleanliness, large flocks of poultry can be kept free from disease, and either fattened for market or so fed that they will give a bountiful supply of eggs.

At this season of the year it is well to let the fowls have the run of the orchard and the garden, and they will destroy quantities of worms, bugs and other insects. A hundred fowls in a quarter of an acre will do good service to the horticulturist and the gardener, and lay a large number of eggs, which are always a cash article and desirable in the kitchen and on the table.—*Country Gentleman.*

HELPING CHICKENS FROM THE SHELL.

Many of our best books on poultry discourage any attempt to assist a weak chicken when its own efforts to burst its prison walls are ineffectual. It is urged that any excitement about the nest worries the hen exceedingly; that the operation is an exceedingly delicate one, not to be readily or hastily performed; and that even when the poor little creature survives at the time, it will not live to maturity.

With regard to those objections, we say, when it appears that part of the brood have been hatched some time—twelve hours, perhaps—let the mother with the chickens already out be furnished with a fresh nest where they may have a little food within reach. If an egg has been "chipped" and no further progress made, take a pair of sharp pointed scissors and cut up to the blunt end of the egg, and in that vicinity remove one-third of the whole shell, but do not draw blood; then place what remains in the nest under the hen. Our experience has shown that with this treatment death was an impossibility; the probability, life and strength.

The writer once employed this method upon an egg after it had been "chipped" and lain wholly uncovered for fifteen hours. In six hours the chicken was on its legs, and afterwards grew to be a heavy, healthy bird. A chicken which is too feeble to hatch naturally must surely die if assistance be withheld; on the other hand, there is every reason to expect that nature will rally when encouraged and stimulated by the co-operation of man, and that we shall be rewarded for our trouble with that satisfaction which results from the saving of life.—*Journal of the Farm.*

COOPS FOR FOWLS.

A Vermont correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says he has kept his fowls during the summer, for the last five or six years, in portable coops on the grass moving them each morning. He finds the plan both convenient and profitable. His coops are cheaply and easily made. They are twelve feet long by four feet wide on the ground, the sides running to a point at top. About four feet at one end is enclosed for a roosting place, and less space at the other end for nests. To strengthen the sides he nails a strip half way up on each side, the ends of which extend so as to form handles for moving the coop. In such a coop he keeps from 10