

## Correspondence.

Sir,

As the insertion of my former communication to you stamps it with your approval, I shall presume to trouble you with another article, detailing a method of raising Turnips that I have practiced for several years with a great measure of success.

We have now arrived at a most important crisis in the annals of Agriculture, and we must either rise superior to the depression and discouragements incident to it, by added industry and increased display of skill in our vocation, or submit to be completely submerged by it. Every thing around us is evidently in a state of rapid transition, and we must progress with the tide of human affairs, now flowing in with unusual strength and rapidity, or be stranded. We cannot conceal from ourselves, however we may lament it, that the Government Agricultural Protection is doomed,—that its very speedy withdrawal is inevitable,—and that it becomes us to look the impending danger boldly in the face, and endeavour to avert its disastrous results.—Now the obvious means of meeting and diverting these discouraging prospects, are those of devising and acting upon feasible and practical plans of improved farming; and in our present juncture, I hold it the duty of every lover of his native or adopted home, to set himself boldly and resolutely to the task of contributing his modicum of knowledge to the proper organ of agriculturists, undeterred by previous inexperience in writing. Every body that is slightly familiar with the outline of the agricultural history of Scotland, knows full well that a century has witnessed the most astonishing advances in the value and productiveness of that soil, that the first general increase of rents, although it engendered such a panic amongst the cultivators as to have the effect of expatriating a great majority of the Highland tenants, has been susceptible of repeated and very large additions, and that thousands of families are now living in comfort under rents tenfold the amount paid a century ago. These added burdens they are enabled to bear by increased diligence, and the pursuit of an admirable system of farming, that secures to them a return that would have been deemed incredible only forty or fifty years since. Let any intelligent unprejudiced person that has

seen the practice of other countries, ask himself if the modes of farming that prevail here, are not capable of very great improvement in every step or stage of their practice, and if superior systems are not calculated to make the standard of our return approximate to that of the soil of Britain? It cannot be disputed, nor is it too hazardous to assert, that an average of at least one-third more may be raised on a given quantity than is now obtained. Impress upon your subscribers, that although they cannot influence the prices of the great mart for agricultural produce they most depend upon, they certainly have it in their power to increase the amount of their production, on a limited space, and that therefore the antidote to the bane is within their compass.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A LONG POINT FARMER.

Talbot District, March 13, 1846.

## Turnip Culture.

The chief feature of the improved English system of agriculture may be said to be the cultivation of Turnips for the rearing and fattening of cattle. The following description contains a minute account of the Northumbrian system by which manual labour is almost dispensed with:—

The land having been prepared by as many ploughings and harrowings as may be thought requisite to pulverize it and destroy the weeds and laid quite flat; an experienced ploughman draws as straight a furrow as possible, and returning lays the next furrow slice upon the first, thus completing a *bout*. The usual width of the furrow being 9 inches, the first ridge and furrow take up 18 inches, the next furrow slice being laid over the first, the whole work takes a width of 27 inches. He then enters again at the distance of 27 inches from the land side of the first made furrow, and completes a second bout parallel to the first. When the whole piece or field is thus laid into narrow ridges, the depressions are about 6 inches below the former surface and the ridges as much above. This at once doubles the depth of the cultivated soil in the ridges.—The manure is now brought on the land in small one horse carts, the wheels of which are about 54 inches apart, so that the horse walks in one furrow while the wheels move in the two adjoining. The manure, which is chiefly common farm-yard dung, not too much decomposed, especially if the soil is inclined to clay, is laid in small equidistant heaps in the centre furrow, drawn out of the cart by a dung-drag, and afterwards evenly spread in the middle furrow to the right and left of those. The quantity thus laid on must depend on the supply in the yard, but ought not to be less than 15 or 20 gingle