

est of fodder, having this advantage over hay say our farmers, that it makes yellow, as well as better flavored butter, and is preferred to any hay. The stalks are fed the fore part of winter, and much butter is thus made, which always sells for the highest price. Besides, cows are said to give milk longer, and thus get up a habit in this direction. Thus the stalks will pay all expense, and leave the corn a clear profit of *ninety dollars the acre*.

Mr. Smith's father, a few years since, raised 1,500 bushels of hard ripe corn, for which he got a dollar a bushel, from twenty acres of similar land, the farms joining. This is about the average yield, taking the years as they run. Sometimes but 60 to the acre is realized, and by some slovenly farmers even less. But the great depth of soil, its richness and thorough (natural) drainage, its uniform mellowness and blackness drawing the rays of the sun—and the hills on either side of the valley, running east and west, thus warding off the winds, and giving a direct chance to the sun,—all these things have their effect in producing in this valley the corn that is raised. But corn is raised successfully in the same manner on the hills and throughout this section generally, varying in profit with the nature of the soil.

The two successful crops of the valley are corn and hops, making fortunes for their proprietors; and they are usually grown on the same farm, and generally in addition to a dairy. The three are usually found together, the dairy enriching the soil (by pasturage and the manure that is made,) the cornstalks supplying fodder, and the corn ground preparing the land for seeding, which generally here follows the next crop, either of oats, wheat or barley, the latter two being preferable for seeding.

The principle of planting corn on green sward is held to be this: The mellow soil or top is favorable to tillage, and free (if plowed deep) from insects, as we have said; and by the time the roots penetrate well the sward—which occurs at the commencement of the hot weather in July—decomposition will have set in, which *warms the under soil* as well as enriches it, and thus drives on the corn. This is the principle held here. At any rate, corn is a success on greensward, turned down in the spring. Now and then fall-plowing has a good effect, or has had, as little is done now. But it seems the sod turned down gets soaked during the winter, unless the drainage is

perfect, which is far from being the case generally. This, by the time the corn is planted, seems to sour, and if turned up with the plow is often found to be wet. Especially late (fall) plowing seems to have this effect, probably by packing the soft wet soil. In clay we know this to be the case, even if the soil is but slightly mixed with it. One of the greatest injuries to soil, whether plowed in fall or spring, is to plow it wet. This is the case with our soil, as I have often enough witnessed. I find there is little difference whether the soil is black or yellow, rich or otherwise, though gravel or sand is less objectionable than clay. Last fall our neighbor Hall plowed his garden late and very wet. Though the soil is a very rich, black, mellow soil, highly productive, we prophesied a failure the next season; and it turned out so, eminently. I have lost entire crops in this way, one, a barley crop on good ground, by harrowing it when wet, and but once at that. The ground was bare, and finely harsh, almost a miracle to look at in its consequences.

On the whole then, spring plowing for corn on sod, is preferred, and is always a success if the corn is well taken care of, in this locality, especially in the valley. And why not so in other places? We think Mr. Smith has hit upon the right management, and it is his second year of farming; he is a young farmer, and reads, and thinks, and labors—labors *himself*.

I should have mentioned that no manure is used, the sod being considered sufficient manure. This is applied on grass lands as a top-dressing here with the best of success—though none that I am aware of, and I am pretty certain in this—was ever used on Mr. Smith's meadow, the soil being rich and always yielding well without manure.—F. G. in *Country Gentleman*.

VALUE OF LEACHED ASHES.

IN conversation with an agricultural friend, sometime since, he mentioned that he had found great benefit from the application of old leached ashes to wheat, especially on sandy soils. In one instance, one hundred bushels of ashes per acre, spread on the soil after the wheat was sown, gave him an increase of ten bushels per acre. He has spots on his farm where he can see the beneficial effect of unleached ashes, applied nine years ago. Every time the lot is sown with wheat. He has tried unleached ashes with no benefit to wheat, though he thinks them good for corn.