

tain a large proportion of the soluble ingredient, and the loss of which reduces the quantity and quality of the manure heap sometimes, to the extent of fifty per cent. A most conclusive experiment was made by Sir Humphry Davy, more than fifty years ago, which I will transcribe for the benefit of those who are the advocates of excessive fermentation.

The beak of a retort filled with hot fermenting manure was introduced into the soil among the roots of some grass in the border of a garden. In less than a week a very distinct effect was produced upon the grass; upon the spot exposed to the influence of the matter disengaged in fermentation, it grew with much more luxuriance than the grass in any other part of the garden.

If such effects are produced by the escape of gases from the small quantity of manure which would be contained in a retort what must be the loss of fertilizing matter from a large manure heap?

But there are still other arguments against it. Heat, we know, is essential to the germination of seeds. When manure has undergone the process of violent fermentation, much heat is lost; but if this fermentation takes place in the soil, the important services of this otherwise lost heat are secured for the newly sown seed, or the young plant. Moreover, chemists tell us that 'in all cases of decomposition, substances combine much more readily than after they have been perfectly formed.' Such being the case, it is not difficult to understand why the fermentation of manure beneath the soil, should add so much more to its efficacy, than when it takes place in the farm-yard. The gaseous and fluid matter evolved are brought into direct contact with the germinating seed or growing plant, and before they enter into any new combinations, and are thus in a condition to be more efficiently appropriated.

These reasons, which are not offered as new, may not strike some of your readers as being very cogent; but a few experiments will demonstrate their correctness with them as they have done with us.—*Farmer and Gardener*.

Secret Societies:

The following sentiments adopted at the last session of the Iowa Conference of the Wesleyan Conference, meets our views on this subject:—

"We are more than ever convinced that the duties we owe to God and Christianity cannot be performed by any man who is in fellowship with secret oath-bound societies; and this antagonism is not merely or mainly on account of the character of the initiatory obligations; nor even because of the secrets that may be held sacred. All these are sinful, and to be condemned by all Christian people; yet if the oaths were all dispensed with, and no secrets held by any, the principles maintained, the character assumed, and the results following the prevalence of such societies, must forever preclude Christian people from holding fellowship with them. They are selfish, favoring a system of caste, multiplying artificial distinctions, and thus interfering with