## PLOUGHING.

Good ploughing may be considered with propriety, the radical principle and foundation stone of good farming: this being the case, it may not be amiss to give a few plain directions by which the juvenile portion of our readers may be enabled to judge of the merits of their own experience; and wherein they imagine a deficiency in their practice, they may by careful attention improve, so as to be qualified for the performance of that important branch of husbandry, in a style creditable to themselves and advantageous to the owner of the soil.

No man can do justice to the soil he cultivates unless he be provided with a good plough. On most soils the Scotch iron plough will be found to do the best work, and at the same time, most easily held. This plough, however, is only suited for cleared lands, which are completely free from stumps. By the aid of one single wheel, the draught would be materially lightened, and also, would the ease and convenience to the ploughman be much improved.

The next on the list comes the Scotch wooden plough, which has as many patterns as makers, and all, are eulogized and praised in their respective neighbourhoods where they are used. The nearer the wooden plough approaches to a correct model of the iron plough, the nearer is that approach to perfection. Then on this principle all the modifications which have been introduced go for nothing, so far as improvement in the modern Scotch plough is concerned.

The Canadian patent-ploughs have their admirers, but the only real ground for eulogy is, that they are cheap, and, are an improvement on the old fashioned Barshare and Bull ploughs, and also that they are capable of performing a great amount of work in a short period of time. They answer well on light sandy grounds, simply because the soil is so pourous and easily permeable, that it requires but little skill to perform the work tolerably well. We cannot recommend these ploughs unless it be for newly cleared lands, and soils composed of a sandy loam.—Lloyd's Canadian improved plough, although susceptible of further improvement is probably the best description of ploughs generally denominated Patent-ploughs. We understand that a very excellent plough has been lately introduced in the Talbot district, which is made wholly of wrought-iron, and costs only £3. If this information be correct, and the implement be really as good as has been represented, we would feel a very great pleasure in not only becoming a purchaser of one of them, but we would also, give an impartial notice of them through the columns of our Journal.

The best implement for stumpy ground, is manufactured in the western portion of the Niagara district, which combines the principles of the Scotch, Barshare, and Patent-ploughs. If some ingenious mechanic would construct a few ploughs on the model just mentioned, they would find a ready sale. The handles should be tolerably long and the beam the same turn as the Scotch plough. The shape of the mould-board, should be a correct mould of Wilkie's improved Scotch, and the principles of attaching the castings to the wood the same as the Canadian patent-ploughs. The only feature which resembles the bar-share is the share and coulter, which are locked together. The point of the coulter presents the likeness of the point of a common share. With a plough constructed on this plan, there will be no difficulty to plough either stumpy or stony ground.

It matters not how perfect the plough may appear, unless it will cut a well proportioned furrow, and turn it completely on its follow, in an angle of inclination of about forty-five degrees, and at the same time, works easy for both man and beast, without these trails of character, it cannot be considered a model of perfection. We have seen men work as hard, as though at a *loging bee*, while ploughing in a field, which presented a smooth surface, and the great difficulty, lay in the wretched implement which they held in their hand. No farmer need plead poverty or excuse himself on the score of economy in not furnishing his workmen, with a good plough,—an implement indispensible in his business, and the work to be performed by which, should be executed in the best possible style, if he expects to prosper or become wealthy by his business.

Next to a good implement comes the well trained pair of horses. It may be considered at the first sight, an easy matter to train a pair of horses, in a proper manner, to the plough; but the task is one that requires much attention, gentle treatment, and a thorough knowledge of the habits and disposition of the noble animal, the horse. The wildest horse that ever coursed the plains of South America, might by careful and gentle means be taught to go abreast in the plough. A wild refractory animal should be worked along side of a gentle well trained animal, that is not only used to the particular work, but is also accustomed to work with animals of other temperaments.

Single rope lines, with cross couplings of the same material are the best description of reins to govern horses while at the plough. The lines which extends from the animals mouth to the plough handles should be held in each hand, which with the cross checks, gives the ploughman complete command over his team, and by a little attention, the near side horse may be made to walk about three feet assunder from the furrow horse, a point of the utmost importance to the ploughman.

The adjustment of the *bridle*, which is fixed at the end of the beam to give the implement necessary variations, to suit the soil, or counteract any defects that may be in its structure, is a point that is best understood, by the ploughman himself—however, as we are giving a few plain directions to the novice, it may not be considered presumptious in us to particularize on this point.

Should the plough tend to go too deep the line of the draught should be lowered, the same effect may also be produced by shortening the traces. If the point of the share tends too much to the land side, the line of draught, by means of the bridle, is shifted more to the left, and if the right hand it is shifted more to the right, the same effect may be gained to a certain degree by shortening, or longthening the cross checks, by which the land horse may be made to walk, closer or farther from the furrow horse, as may be required. This adjusting of the plough's motion is easy, and should be made to run horizontally forward, without the slightest tendency to turn to the right or left, or to rise or sink into the earth more than the common level, which is desirable that the furrow should be turned.

The coulter and share should form a right line with the land side of the plough which is easily ascertained by the aid of a straight edge board. In ploughing sward this rule might with advantage be deviated from in this particular.—The coulter should be set so as to project about half an inch from a straight line with the land side of the share. To form a ridge in a straight line a number of stakes must be set in the line of direction, and the first furrow should be turned very lightly, the horses should then be turned right about, and the first furrow formed should be completely enveloped with the second, and the third would form the crown of the ridge.—By marking out the lands in parallel lines, and by cutting the furrow slices of a certain given width, the land when it is about being completed may be taken up without turning; the last furrow but one, however, should be ploughed at least two inches shallower than the usual depth, so that the land side of the plough may have a *shoulder* to keep the implement steady. This shoulder should form another furrow which may be denominated a subsoil or seed furrow.

The proper performance of this particular branch of business, is so important in good husbandry, that every attention should be given to its encouragement, and we trust, Agricultural Societies will not lose sight of instituting means by which its advancement may be fostered.

*From the New Genesee Farmer.*

## CANADIAN THISTLE.

Mr. Editor.—Having been a reader of the New Genesee Farmer for a number of years, and noticed therein many pieces on the destruction of the Canadian Thistle; and thinking the subject not yet wholly exhausted, I lend my mite. I am the more induced to make this communication, (and perhaps there is nothing new in it,) as I understand some persons are about the country, (as I should say,) imposing upon the farmers by selling *rights* for killing the Canada Thistle by cutting them on certain days of the year; which in my opinion, is against all principles of Natural Philosophy; for, in my humble judgment, to kill the thistle by cutting, it must be cut in a certain state of vegetation; and who does not know that in different years, there is as much as from ten to fifteen days variation arriving at the same point of perfection.

We have had the different modes of mowing, salting, ploughing, hoeing, &c., recommended, but all these modes seem to be somewhat defective. My farm was badly infested with the Canada thistle when I came on to it, and I was alarmed for the consequences; but I have learned to manage them to good account. My course of treatment is this: I seed my land down thickly, so as to create a thick, smooth and unbroken sward; remove every obstacle that may have a tendency to break the sward or impede the scythe, and make the land sufficiently rich, (if it is not already) to bear a heavy crop of grass.—The better way is not feed the land thus prepared for killing the thistle, at all in the spring; and when the top blossoms of the thistle begin to open, cut thistles and grass all together, and put them up for fodder. If there appear to be no grass among the thistles, I put them up the same, for, if left on the ground, they break the sward and prevent the killing the thistle. Cattle or sheep will eat the thistle cut and put up thus, all except the large stalk, as readily as they will the best hay. The way I manage to cut them in proper time is, I commence mowing as soon as the top blossom makes its appearance, and mow paths from one spot to another, until all are collected and put up.

By observing the above rule, the thistle will disappear, so that within three years time, there will scarcely be a thistle left to tell where they grew. Mowing in pastures does no good, only to prevent seeding; as you cannot cut them so close but there will remain sufficient vegetation to sustain the root; while on a smooth sward and thick grass, as above stated, you can cut the thistle much closer than in a pasture; and the stalk of the thistle thus growing, partakes somewhat of the nature of the root for some small distance above the ground; and by mowing