

the soil poor, and the next crop will be poorer still, or in other words, it takes so much out of the soil." The crops I suppose you mean, said I, "yes, says he, that's it!" Why, my good Sir, I replied, is not that what we put the plaster in the soil for? He could not, or would not see it, so with a *very little* more talk on farm matters, I left him just about as ignorant as I found him, but with the crumbs of comfort to himself, that he was a pretty good farmer. A few years after, I learned that he had died, I am sorry to say, just as poor as he had lived. Another instance which I will relate, occurred to me when discussing the merits of plaster with a neighbour some time since, whose crops had been declining for years previously, and his hay crops more particularly so, and on my suggesting a liberal supply of plaster, and asking him why he did not use it, as I was sure it would be very beneficial to his crops, his reply was that, "he could never see any benefit from it on his land, and that he did not believe in it." I had some suspicion that he had not tried it of late years, and when I asked him how long it was since he last used it, it came out with some reluctance, that it was *about seventeen years!* And yet, this person thought himself quite authorized and well qualified to pronounce on the merits of plaster as applied to his crops. It is such people who very frequently influence their more ignorant and less experienced neighbours in such matters, and from which influence they often suffer. One would scarcely imagine that such prejudice and ignorance could exist in these days, particularly with one, who generally speaking on other subjects has his wits pretty well about him. I, however, saw plainly, on reflection, the reason *why* he had perceived no increase of his crop at the time he applied the plaster to his clover. His soil was then, comparatively speaking, in its virgin state, as he was at that time clearing so many acres yearly, and his land consequently needed no plaster, this in all probability had never occurred to him, hence his prejudice against plaster. But it needs it now, and as the prejudice with him still exists, there is little chance of its getting any; yet I am sure by the liberal use of that article at the present time, he would increase his grain crops one third at least, and his hay would be double what he now cuts.

A third person a short time ago, told me he thought plaster was a useless expense, and only helped to run out the soil, I told him unless he used it or something else more liberally than he was doing, he would soon be run of his farm! However, time will tell, and I may or may not live to see it.

I will now proceed to give the views of others as to the *utility of plaster*, and you will thereby perceive that we are *not all* prejudiced dolts in our profession, and in all sincerity I thank Heaven for it.

In the course of conversation on farming with a friend the other day, he said "I think you are a great advocate of the use of plaster," I said I am, as well as of the use of any thing else that will enrich the soil, and if you had received as much benefit from plaster as I have, you would think as highly of it as I do. "Well," he said, I wish that I had believed in it years ago, as I do now, I should have been much better off than I am at the present time, but I should never have believed sufficiently in its efficacy had I not tried it on some oats and clover this summer, for by leaving a land of each crop unplastered, I was enabled to arrive at its true value, and it thoroughly convinces me what I should have gained had I used it for years past on my crops, which I'll take care to do for the future." *That* now, I am sure Mr. Editor you will agree with me is sensible.

There is nothing like repenting of one's error in time, with a good resolve to mind the future! I replied that plaster was just suitable to your soil (gravel and sandy loam), which is the nature of many other farms in this neighbourhood, and which are in a measure exhausted by perpetual over-cropping. "Yes," he replied, "that is the true state of the case." But I told him that he needed other fertilizers besides plaster, as his land had been over-cropped—such as lime, salt, bone dust, or super-phosphate of lime, which when well incorporated with the soil at the time of his root or wheat fallow, or at the time of cultivating and harrowing in his spring crops, would, with his barn-yard manure, soon restore the soil, and thereby his crops would speedily be doubled in value. He thanked me, and said "that he should take advantage of my suggestions," and so we parted—I, in the hope that I had been of some service to him; he, with the determination that he would better the condition of his soil, and reap the benefits therefrom. What a contrast in the two individuals I have here alluded to: the first enjoying the fallacious imagination that his management was all right, the other candidly admitting that he was all wrong! Such, however, is human nature; perhaps all will come right some day. I would here, Mr. Editor, willingly leave my subject, but I cannot forbear relating a circumstance which ocular demonstration warrants me asserting as fact, independently of the statement coming as it did from the parties themselves, in the presence of myself and others.

I am here about to allude to two brothers (Welshmen) who rented a large farm in the neighborhood of St. Catharines, Ontario, who had great faith in the use of plaster, and the farm having been very indifferently managed for years by its owner, they consequently found their crops for the first few years far from remunerative, which decided them to set to work and dress their Wheat, Oats, Barley and Clover liberally with plaster. In the space of three years their produce was nearly doubled, and for years after they continued so to increase that they were compelled to add almost yearly to their barn and shed accommodation, for with the extraordinary increase of crops came also an annual increase of stock, and with this and other skilful management, there soon accumulated wealth enough to enable