

## My Farm.

Contrary to previous expectations our root crop gives promise of an abundant yield; on clay lands, however some fields have been partial failures, owing to the neglect of one operation, namely, that of rolling after sowing.

After sowing we had heavy rain, and that succeeded by a hot sun, caked up the ground, giving the seed no chance to come through, which might have been remedied when the ground was baked. Indeed, a few days ago, we saw a practical proof of this in two adjacent clay land farms; in the one, this precaution was heeded and an excellent braird the result; on the other, it was neglected and the result was, the plants were few and far between.

The wheat crop around here has picked up wonderfully and I think threshing will show a fair yield. Indeed one field of Deihl wheat, that we intended to plough up in spring will turn out about 20 bushels to the acre, a yield, which although hardly to be considered very profitable, will, if the present prices continue, a good deal more than pay expenses. We attribute our poor crops of wheat in a great measure to too late seeding. If we can't get our wheat in by the tenth of September, this fall we shall not put it in at all.

During the last few weeks we have had very catchy weather; weeds have grown apace with us, and, notwithstanding the vigorous use of the horse hoe, they have got a good deal the start of us. Potatoes and corn show well.

We shall have a great amount of corn stocks, and are puzzled to know how best to secure them for winter fodder. We should like to hear from some of your readers on this point. Last year we lost three or four tons of corn fodder by heating in a barn. All the spare hay we have we shall feed or sell this year, for the clover take is good, and the probabilities are in favor of an abundant crop next year.

The coming winter should be one of great profit to the hay and straw cutter manufacturers; for every farmer will do well to economize his fodder by the use of a cutting-box.

Last year I saw in your columns quite a controversy between the advocates of the old-fashioned way of pulling turnips and the new system of dragging or ploughing them out; before the season of housing turnips arrives, I should like to see the opinion of the advocates of these several methods again put forward. There appears to me to be much good sense on both sides, but I cannot yet with such proofs only of their respective advantages reconcile myself to entirely throw aside the old-fashioned plan.

R. B.

"The Grange," Ancaster, {  
Aug., 1872. }

## Money for Draining.

SIR,—I am a farmer who has successfully won his way from poverty to comparative independence. My farm is all cleared, and well-fenced; and the buildings on it are good. A great portion, however, of the land is intersected with wet swales; and, as a rule, this is the case with all the lands taken up and cleared of late years. The cause of this is, of course due to all the dry land having been occupied first—my case may, therefore, be multiplied by thousands.

These wet places on the land are very unproductive, and not only is the immediate land injured by water, but an influence is exerted on all parts contiguous—draining such places, therefore, becomes an absolute necessity. Hitherto we have grubbed along amongst the stumps, doing the best we could, losing half of every crop we sowed, and hoping for the future, "when the stumps should be out and the land cleared and paid for." Thank God, that time has now arrived, and we all feel confident for the future—If we could get the draining done. But this is impossible, unless we can get money at a low rate of interest; we cannot afford to get it from the building societies, as notwithstanding all they say, we know they are paying eleven per cent. dividends to their stockholders, and all other expenses amount to more than one per cent, and the farmer pays all this, in one shape or another; so it is hopeless to think of draining at such a cost of money. Private loans are not as bad, but absolute punctuality is insisted on in their case; and no matter what delay the farmer may have to complain of as a reason for requiring leniency, the lawyer who has effected the loan and made moneys by pressing for payment, by way of costs, can hardly be expected to abstain from proceeding, especially when he has the law on his side as a reason for doing so.

It therefore follows that the farmer must get his money for draining from some other source, and at a cheaper rate—that is, if he is to have his farm drained during the present generation.

What then is to be done? Cannot the Government lend a certain sum, at five per cent., to solvent farmers, whose farms are indisputable security for such advances, with the stipulation that this money is only to be paid when the draining is actually done, and is to be applied to no other purpose. In this way we can get our farms drained at a low cost, and as the farmer each year can pay off the loan, or any portion of it, let him do so. At home, millions of acres have been thus drained, and the land held answerable, even when the money has been expended by the tenant, and why should not we do likewise? The public drainage act does not help us, as individuals cannot get money expended on their farms. All the expenditure so made must be for the public good, and only affords channels for individual enterprise to drain

with, but does not help the draining of the farm in a direct manner.

If you can see any help for this great difficulty, and assist us in overcoming it, you will benefit thousands of farmers.

AN ESSEX FARMER.

## An Englishman's First Impressions of Canada.

(To the Editor.)

SIR.—Having but lately arrived in this country, I venture to send you a few of my first impressions, as an Englishman, on the general manners and customs of the people, and of the country as it appears to one looking at it on its sunny and perhaps most favorable side:—

With regard to the face of the country itself, no one, and no Englishman in particular, can fail to remark the gigantic scale on which the works of nature are ordered and arranged; your magnificent rivers, any one of which would be awkward enough to say the least of it, if transported by mistake into our little island, would require some drainage and then would not leave us over much room on which to pride ourselves. Your hilly or rather mountainous parts, especially those which we saw as we passed up the St. Lawrence, and of which we could take in only a small piece at a time; your lakes of gigantic size, which they say are at times as rough as any sea; and, lastly, your falls which the Yankee shrewdly "guessed," would swamp poor Vesuvius in a twink.

The roughness of your country was not so much a source of surprise as of wonder to an English eye. First and foremost, your peculiar way of enclosing ground with rough gagged looking fences, in the place of our green well-kept hedges was very striking; also nearly all your fields which, appearing otherwise fairly cleared, were dotted with numberless blackened stumps. Further westward appeared the yellow wheat fields, such as we left behind in England; now gladdening our eyes like friends in a strange land; whilst, here and there, were interspersed, what we were told, was buck-wheat and Indian-corn. But what is most astonishing to an Englishman is the appearance of your houses and towns. In the place of our brick and stone you have a wooden country, wooden houses, wooden pavement, wooden everything.

Your institutions again are very wonderful both the way in which you travel and your hotel accommodation, both materially different from ours. In England we do our short distances in the travelling way, as regards time, well and punctually, and our system has, in this respect, nearly arrived at a state of perfection. Your system may be good; but, at any rate, works badly. It seems to be the thing in this country to be like the Englishman when invited to a party, always late. However, your conveniences for