

the saving of time and labour which has been effected by machinery and management, in various departments of agriculture, and in other pursuits of life, we may reasonably indulge the hope that similar success may attend, similar efforts in this particular object; and science, societies, and agricultural papers, in these provinces, cannot direct attention to a more important subject of consideration, than to the improvement of machinery and management for spring work.

[To be continued.]



#### WASTE OF MANURE.

MANY difficulties, arising from the circumstances of the farmer and the state of his farm, have opposed the progress of agriculture in these Provinces; but there are many erroneous practices, unconnected with those difficulties, which require correction. The attention of a stranger passing through our provinces, and possessing any agricultural discernment, is arrested by the condition of our barn yards, the waste of manure, and the want of compost heaps in or near them. Before we quote authorities upon the subject of manures, we shall point out some of the errors which prevail so generally throughout our provinces, in this important department of husbandry.

The manure collected during the winter is thrown into a heap in the open air, adjoining the stable, for convenience. Much of its substance is washed away by the fall and winter rains; and it is mingled, layer after layer, with snow collected in successive storms.—The loss of useful property, which it sustains by these frequent washings, will be shewn, when we speak of the making and management of composts; and, moreover, the labourer has increased work in breaking up the frozen masses in the spring; and when his cart is loaded, a large proportion of the load consists of snow and ice.

This error, which is an evil of serious magnitude in rural economy, is easily remedied by building a shed or lintel, for the reception and protection

of the manure, so constructed, and facing the south, that when the doors are opened in the spring, the manure might be easily removed.

We may here advert to another very objectionable practice with many of our farmers, namely, the yarding of cattle—if we can call it yarding—in the highways, which endangers not only the life of the passenger, and the limbs of the animal, but occasions a serious loss to the farmer. In the first place, a loss of manure, if he neglects to collect it, which is generally the case; and in the second place, a loss of time in the collection of it, if he sees the necessity of gathering it. Fresh manure, when carted to the field in the fall of the year, and deposited in small heaps throughout it, is liable to waste. When scattered in this state over the field, it does not undergo that chemical change in its nature, which experience has found to be so beneficial for vegetation. We are ignorant of the real nature of this change, but we know the fact, that after the process of fermentation, the properties of the compost are improved. The fresh manure scattered over the fields, or deposited in heaps, is so frequently washed by the rains, that there is little left excepting the straw. It has been argued in reply to this objection, that the virtue thus washed out, has been washed into the surrounding soil. But it should be known, and remembered in the first place, that the substance thus removed, not having undergone fermentation, is not so nutritious to the soil, as a similar quantity of wash from a proper compost, fit for use; and in the second place, that the frequent rains, either run it from the surface, if the ground is frozen, or the field be situated on the side of a hill; or, if the earth is soft and porous, that the virtue of the manure sinks downwards unnecessarily and unprofitably deep. The acrimonious property of fresh manure is displayed in the droppings of cattle upon pasture and meadow lands, where the grass beneath such droppings is completely scalded and destroyed.

A similar waste is observable in those