

The Farmer's Journal.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1857.

To Subscribers.

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DE MONTIGNY & Co.,
Proprietors,
Montreal.

1st December 1857.

December.

Though I think it is not very necessary to recommend to farmers what they have to do in the month of December, I shall make a few observations on the operations to be chiefly attended to during this month. I do not write for those who know they have yet a great deal to do, but for those who, seeing their barns full, believe they have only to eat what they have harvested.

There is yet, however, much work to be profitably carried on for the out door labourer; ditches may be cleansed, fences repaired, plantations of fruit trees finished, turf may be collected, earths carted from either ditches, old banks, marl, or clay, or chalk pits, either as beds for future dung-heaps, or for the temporary foundations of cattle-yards, to absorb the liquid matter of the cattle, and afterwards be mixed with the dung. Towards the end of the month, also, is a good period, especially in hard frosts, to commence carting night soil or other distant heavy fertilizers. Live stock now will require a regular supply of food; the thrasher should be steadily employed in the barn; the chaff-cutter should also be

kept regularly to his work. Potatoes may be steamed and advantageously mixed with chaff. Put the boar to the sow; prepare for heavy snow falls; have stores of Sweeties ready for use. Fat cattle now usually sells well, and should be forced on. Lambs for early fattening begin to be dropped towards the end of this month; give these dry lodging and good keep. Repair roads; look to your accounts, prepare to collect in debts. Flood your water meadows, and extend and improve them. The importance of these meads is much too little understood, or the theory of their action on the water. Irrigation is, in truth, a mode of applying the weakest of liquid manures, on a very bold scale, to grass lands. Look to the regular littering of the farm yard; be careful that no drainage escapes. The sheep now require considerable attention; give them dry food and salt. Wood cutting should be proceeded with. Attend to your land drains, see that no water lodges on the land.

Remember that on a proper drainage rest all agricultural improvements, and that no commonly cultivated crop can flourish without a well regulated supply of moisture.

All the stables must be well ventilated and kept clean.

Put all your implements, not in use, in good order for next spring. (See below the manner of preserving them from rust.)

Have a snow plough ready for use.

T. C.

Laying Farm-yard Dung on Clay Fallows for Wheat.

The preparation of clay lands for a succession of crops by the process of summer fallowing, which pulverizes the soil and removes all weeds and stones, reaches the condition of receiving farm-yard dung for