

FARM MANAGEMENT—LOSS OF MANURE.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist.

Credit, C. W., Jan. 17th, 1857.

Sir,—As a young farmer having everything to learn and but little to teach, it is with considerable diffidence that I take up the gauntlet thrown down to correspondents in your December number.

By bringing before your readers, what I cannot but consider two very important points in the farm management (or rather mismanagement) of this country, I hope to draw forth remarks from practical men, their opinions, and the results of their experience, here and at home; which I am convinced will be of very great benefit to the agricultural community at large.

The points to which I allude, sir, are *the great waste of cattle food, by unnecessary exposure of stock to wet and cold, and the needless loss and wasteful use of manure.* By a large proportion of our farmers the first of these is accomplished by allowing the cattle to shiver about during our biting winter in the open barnyard, with perhaps an open shed by way of shelter, and food if they get anything besides the run of the straw rick, a *little* hay or cat straw is thrown out on the ground which the strongest cattle immediately take possession of, the younger and weaker ones which require the most, getting barely enough to spoil their appetite for the straw, by which treatment even if they escape mange and other contagious diseases, resulting from such inhumanity, the whole herd becomes so disgracefully out of condition by the spring, that nearly the whole summer is required to regain their *wasted* flesh. There cannot be a second opinion as to the absurdity of allowing animals to get out of condition, as it is palpably a fact, that all the food a growing beast eats whilst declining in flesh from a given weight, as well as all he eats in regaining that weight, must be lost entirely—*wasted*. And in the case of milch cows it is well-known that if a cow be allowed to decline in her milk for a given time, it will require about double that time and an equal proportion of food to bring the yield up to the original mark, causing a waste of both food and milk, and by the same rule a cow that has been inefficiently wintered, will not only yield an unremunerate supply of milk during the winter, but her milk during a great part at least of the succeeding summer will be inferior both in *quality* and quantity, while as I can prove by my own experience the opposite will be the result of more liberal management.

The second point, loss of manure, follows as a matter of course, the cattle droppings being necessarily of very inferior quality, and even that quality being infinitely reduced by exposure to all weathers: this may be seen to the satisfaction of any one who will visit a common Canadian barnyard, during the rainy months of March or April, liquid manure of the color of brandy and full of ammonia may be seen running away by the hogshead to *waste*—always to waste! as if it were not true that “wilful waste makes woeful want.” If we *waste* good dung, we must expect to *want* good crops. Then follows my last point, the wasteful use of the nearly value-