

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN



# CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—*Dr. Johnson.*

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## THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practise, and every inquirer into nature improve."—*Dr. Johnson.*

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### MONTHLY CALENDAR.

Your summer fallows now demand your earnest attention. If the land intended to be fallowed be foul, with wild grasses and noxious weeds, the first ploughing should be carried very light: a four-inch furrow would facilitate the decomposition of the roots of the grasses, to a much greater degree than if it were ploughed deeper. It is bad economy to cross-plough before the inverted grass is thoroughly decayed. As soon as the land is in a fit state for this work, which generally happens by the middle of July, it should be executed with a strong pair of horses, a strong plough, and a still stronger and more willing heart, on the part of the hardy ploughman. We mean, that, on all lands where the wheat plants are apt to receive injury from winter and spring frosts, the sub-soil should be brought up to the surface, by deep ploughing, and thus a consistency

would be given to the black vegetable soil, which would, ultimately, constitute it the very best quality of soil for wheat. Deep ploughing, especially for winter wheat, should be the order of the day with those farmers who have been unsuccessful during the past few years in growing this crop to perfect maturity.

On the subject of leading manure for your fallows, reason the case, in the same manner that a skilful physician would, in administering medicine to the human species. If the land be already abundant in vegetable substance, the manure must be thoroughly rotted before applied to the soil: if, on the contrary, it be deficient in vegetable matter, long barn-yard manure will lighten such soils, and, in most cases, will be of great benefit to the intended crop. In general, barn-yard manure should be applied to the soil for the crop which precedes the wheat crop; but, if applied for the latter, it should be thoroughly rotted in the manure-heap, before being spread upon the land.

The employment of liquid manure, though but little known on this continent, is very extensive on the continent of Europe. It is, from long experience, an admitted fact among the Belgian farmers, that there are no manures so powerful in their operation as those which are liquid.

Although labour is high, in proportion to the value of produce, yet the matter of making an experiment with liquid manure is worthy of attention. Tanks may be very cheaply constructed, for securing the drainings of the barn-yards and stables, and a simple portable pump could be used, for conveying it into the water carts: the latter should be constructed and used something after the manner which is practised in watering the streets of our cities.

This a good time to clean and drain waste lands: every acre of interval land thus brought into cultivation is worth two acres of up-land.

Now is the time to make an experiment with marl. About six good waggon loads per acre will prove a liberal dressing. The intimate mixing with the soil is best produced by its being spread in small heaps over the field, and left lying thus until it commences to fall to pieces; then it should be broken still more with dung-forks, and strewed evenly about with a shovel. It should then be left quiet for some time, after which it should be harrowed; then the field should be rolled with a light roller, and again harrowed; which process should be alternately continued, in fine weather, until the marl has been converted into a fine powder; and, finally, it should be ploughed under in dry weather.