

least be two feet deep. This depth is not unreasonable should your soil admit of it, but if inadmissible, let the trench be as near to the measure as possible.

TRENCHING.—This is done in the following manner:—Begin at one end of the piece of ground, and shovel out two feet deep and two feet wide: Cast the soil, dug up, on ground you do not intend to trench; shovel out the bottom clean, and make the sides of your trench as near perpendicular as possible; thus you have a clean open trench, running all along one end of your garden ground. You will, as a matter of course, observe the necessity of using a wheel or other barrow, in conveying the soil dug out, into the last trench. Lest this might not be understood, after completing your first trench, you will then take another piece all along two feet wide, and put the earth that this new piece contains into the trench, taking off the top of the new two feet wide, and turning that top down into the bottom of the trench, and then taking the remainder of the earth of the new two feet wide and placing it on the top of the earth just turned into the bottom of the trench. Thus when you have again shovelled out the bottom, you have another clean trench two feet wide and two feet deep.—You will thus proceed till the whole of your garden ground be trenched, and then it will have been cleanly turned over to the depth of two feet. This should be done in the fall, and in consequence of the subsoil being on the top, it should have a dressing of manure in the spring, and well mixed by digging.

CLAY SUBSOIL.—Should your subsoil be stiff clay it should not be cast upon the surface at once, but should be loosened up with the subsoil plough or spade, as per example, see trenching. Observe that the bottom or clay part should be well broken up and cast out. This indeed, is not all that should be performed as the under ground drainings must be well attended to—these may be under the garden walks. Finally, the above mentioned soil is not to be preferred; should however clayey soil be well manured, nearly all kinds of vegetables will thrive in the same. I cannot pass this subject without reminding the Farmer of the great benefit to be derived from the use of the subsoil plough, especially on clay bottom land.

FENCING.—A good fence is essentially necessary, although too often neglected. How often do we see garden crops destroyed for the want of proper or good fences. Should the farmer not have time to perform the work necessary for a good garden, it is to be hoped, that he will not neglect making a substantial fence so that he may enjoy the fruits of his industry, from a garden which he has perhaps but partially cultivated. As to the material of the fence, I will leave it to the judgment of the owner; but were I to command the means of making an ornamental fence, as a matter of course, I would make or plant a hedge. As few however command the means of making a brick or stone wall, I would recommend the north side to consist of boards, as on the south side of the same, grape-vines and other useful and ornamental shrubs could be reared.

HOT-BED.—The prevalent opinion amongst farmers respecting hot-beds is, that they are expensive articles requiring the skill of professional gardeners to manage them, and almost entirely beyond the range of farming economy. Both suppositions are decidedly erroneous, and we hope that everyone who reads

this will arrive at the same conclusion. We do not propose that every farmer should go into the regular routine of forcing vegetables at extraordinary seasons, but that every farmer, however humble his circumstances may be, should at least have a hot-bed to forward such plants as he may want to cultivate in his garden.

In preparing a frame and lights for a hot-bed, some previous instructions on the subject will be necessary, (unless it be well understood by the person who is to make the bed.) The sash should be made of good two-inch plank, without cross bars, in which there are to be four rows of panes of small glass. The sash is to be well painted; and in glazing, begin at the bottom and overlap each light about one-fourth of an inch, so that the rain water may run off. The length of the sash is to be in proportion to the extent of the bed; but by no means over six feet, and no more than four sashes to each frame, and the latter to be made of plank, which is to fit the sash. The back part of the frame to be nearly three feet high, and the front about half the same in height.

The site should be a dry place open to the sun and sheltered from the northerly and easterly winds. Previous to making the bed, manure should be prepared, which may be unfermented stable dung. The preparation is simply this:—Throw into a heap, and when a smart fermentation occurs, turn it over.

In making a bed, the European system is to build above the ground three or four feet high; but in this country of sharp wind and dry atmosphere, I should deem it best to dig about eighteen inches below the surface, if the ground be not too wet; in this way two feet of dung, when settled, is sufficient. The former method is however preferable, should you want your plants to have an early start, as it gives a chance for lining (that is to place hot manure all round the frame to the top of the latter, which will keep up the heat, and can be renewed when necessary.)

In making the bed, shake the manure with a fork evenly over the whole bed, which should be the size of your frame.

If your dung be dry, apply water to the same; on this set your frame, and in it a so put six inches of good rich soil, with a mixture of sand. Put on your lights, and when the heat rises, move off your glass and stir the soil. Should the heat be very strong, wait a few days before sowing, and admit plenty of air both before and after this period; in fact, the more air the better, provided there be heat enough to encourage vegetation—the sowing should be neatly done. After the plants appear, thin them out if needed, and give them plenty of water and air. I find the last of March or first of April, are periods early enough to sow for transplanting.

BEET.—There are varieties of this vegetable, the best of which for the table, are the early blood-turnip-rooted and long blood-red. The soil in which it delights, is a deep rich loomy kind. Should a few for early use be desired, I would advise sowing as early in the spring as the ground may admit. If for a general crop, let the sowing be delayed until May, as the roots will be much larger and better than those from early planting, which from being frequently stunted in growth by the various changes of weather, become tough, stringy, and of unhandsome shape. In case of the failure of crops, or of unfavorable weather in May, Beet seed planted the first week in June, will sometimes produce large hand-

some roots, which may be preserved for winter use.

I recommend that the seed be soaked in soft luke-warm water for at least twenty-four hours; to be sown in drills from one to two inches deep, and fifteen inches apart, if in beds. When they establish their vegetation, they may be thinned to about eight inches apart. In all cases the soil should be pressed down immediately after sowing, particularly that of a light quality.

CABBAGE.—Varieties of this plant have often been introduced to our attention, and many more than are necessary for our present purpose. At this period, however, I will not introduce to your notice a greater number than what may be profitable and useful to you, and these are the large and small early york and green savoy to be used in the summer, the quintal and drum-head for winter, and the red dutch for pickling. There are other varieties which are indeed very good; but as the propagation of the plant is my principal object, I shall make no mention of them, as they all require the same mode of treatment,—distance alone excepted, and this should be left to the seedsman.

TIME OF SOWING.—Much has been said and written by divers authors relative to the sowing of cabbage seed in the fall, for transplanting in the spring; but they spoke and wrote for other countries and not for Canada. For early use, I recommend sowing in a hot-bed, towards the last of March or the first of April. Should this advice be followed, you will find your plants strong and healthy when the period arrives for transplanting them; provided light and air enough may have been admitted during their confinement in the hot-bed. The best plants are produced by “pricking out” when quite small into a well prepared bed, in drills six inches apart and three inches in the drill,—there to remain fifteen or twenty days. What may answer equally well as this process, is to sow in drills, and “thinned out” as above. A knife may be inserted under the drills in a slanting position, and deep enough to cut off their tap roots, about two inches below the surface; this will cause new roots to germinate, and will have the same effect as “pricking out.” In case the above directions be not attended to, the plants may be “thinned out” when young, so that they may be straight and strong for transplanting.

The state of the weather when these operations are performed, is not a matter of indifference, and has been a subject of controversy; some recommending dry weather, others, wet. As in many cases of disputation the truth lies between them, that is, moist weather that is neither dry nor wet, and precisely that which is best for setting out cabbages or any other vegetables. We ought not, however, wait long for even this state of the atmosphere, since with a little labor we have the means of making up for its absence.

TRANSPLANTING.—The small early-york, and others of the same size, which are not enumerated here, are to be put in rows of course. As to distances, they must be proportioned to the size which the cabbages usually come to. For the small early-york plant, a foot apart in all directions is enough; and the large york,—from eighteen to twenty inches will be sufficient space. For savoy and red-dutch, two feet apart in all directions will suffice, and for the large drum-head three feet may be sufficient. One particular, I wish you to observe, and this is, that in