

them with fresh earth immediately, or in the yard, or in the field with a light furrow or a harrow.—When this is done no effluvium, or ammonia, is perceived to pass away.

Farmyard Dung : Preparation and Application.

No subject in the varied course of agriculture obtrudes a more general notice, or deserves a more important consideration, than the application of farmyard dung. The article is produced on all lands on which grains grow and animals are kept, and is the most efficacious of all manures that are yet known. It is a mixed body of straw and excrements urinary and solid, possessing the quick action of the latter substances, and the more durable qualities of the former materials. All other manures are brought from foreign places, and purchased by a ready cost; farmyard dung is daily produced, and of a great value, and the application is no less important.

An approved and long-continued mode of preparing farmyard dung prevails in the celebrated turnip-growing Border counties, of placing the contents of the cattle yards in square piles about six feet in height, in the corner of the fields to be planted with green crops. The yards are concave or dish-shaped, retaining and spreading the moisture equally over the mass, and supplied with straws that absorb all the moisture from rains, snows, and urine. The contents are carried out at two different times during winter, and no pressure is allowed on the piles, except the weight of one or two persons to spread the materials evenly and thinly over the heap. In this condition, a fermentation reduces the heap into a saponaceous mass for use in May and June, and in a condition that is ea-

sily divided by hand-forks, well moistened, and from which the heat of fermentation has in most cases nearly altogether vanished. Much bulk is lost by this mode of preparation, but it is reckoned the best for the use of green crops.

Having been educated under the above system of preparing farmyard dung, I practised the mode with the usual success in various parts of the kingdom. In later years I adopted another mode, from the observation of a very large loss of bulk, and from a wish to use a fresher condition of the dung. At any times of convenience during winter, the contents of the yards are carried to the green-crop fields, and laid in a heap sloping at both ends, over which the carts pass to deposit the loads, and over which the materials are spread evenly and thinly, in order to mix the substances and that no part remain in a dry state. The consolidation from the pressure of the carts prevents the fermentation of the heap which is formed at convenient times, from November to the month of April, and later when the yards are duly moist and the straws thinly used. Potatoes are the first-planted green crop; and about ten days before the dung is required for use, the heap is turned over with forks, laid loosely together and the lumps well broken, and the dry outside of the heap thrown into the middle of the new aggregation. A very active fermentation immediately commences, which is prevailing during the deposition of the dung in the drills, which are immediately reversed and the seed sown. This mode produces fully equal if not superior results to the first-mentioned preparation: it affords a larger bulk, and more convenience in forming the heaps at different times; while the former requires to be done at one time, or not at distant periods.

For some considerable time past,