

Importance of Experimenting.

Mr. Editor:—If the cultivators of the soil would but take trouble, or I would rather say, would they but enjoy the exalted pleasures of testing by experience the numerous unsettled facts relative to their pursuits—was every farmer an experimenter, and each one's farm an experimental one, and the results of those experiments annually published in the agricultural journals—what a fund of useful facts would yearly be produced. It can easily be done, at a trifling expense; and the gratification of observing the various operations of nature, in producing the numerous vegetable and animal productions from the earth, would of itself be a sufficient recompense for the time spent, independently of the valuable results which would follow an accurate knowledge of the various operations of our multifarious calling. And, I repeat it, that every farm ought to be an experimental one. No cultivator of the soil should allow a season to pass without testing some practical experiment on tillage, on manures, seeds, breeds of animals, or on some one of the numerous varieties of vegetables for animal food, &c., &c.

One land, or ridge, could be plowed deep, another shallow—harrowed five or six times through the summer, another only once, or not at all. Treat some with the numerous varieties of manure, to determine the quantity most profitable to apply at a time to each crop, and how to apply it, whether on the surface, slightly covered, or plowed under deep—whether barn-yard manure ought to be applied green, fermented, or rotten. Test the quantity of the various seeds to sow per acre, with the best method of preparing them.

And many valuable facts might be settled relative to the breeding and feeding of animals—the different kind of food profitable to feed with, for the various operations of labor—or for making Milk, Wool, and Flesh. Examine with accuracy and care the result of those experiments, and publish them in our journals, that all may receive the benefit of each individual's experience; the beneficial results would be beyond calculation.

And, Fellow Cultivators, why do we not do it? In no way can we spend a little time so usefully. Let each one of us resolve that in future no season shall pass without our testing some practical experiment relative to our calling.

WM. GARRETT.

Wheatland, Feb. 10, 18 7.

—Gen. Fur.

Cultivation of the Cranberry.

We have been furnished by the Rev. H. B. Holmes, of Auburn, Worcester, Co., Mass., with the following extract from a letter received by him from a friend, in regard to the culture of the cranberry.—*Cultivator.*

1st. You must not think of sowing the seed—but set out the roots.

2nd You wish to know how to prepare the ground. It is important that you contrive some way to prevent and destroy the growth of the grass and bushes, if there are any. This can be done either by plowing, burning, paring, or covering with gravel.

3d. How to set out the roots. After the land is prepared, procure your roots in bunches about as large as it is convenient to take up with a common shovel. It is important to be careful in taking up the roots. Have a sharp shovel or spade so as to disturb them as little as possible, and turn aside the vines, so as not to cut them off. Dig a place in your prepared ground about the size of your bunches of roots and set them in. You can have them about as near as hills of Indian corn usually are, or nearer if you please. The nearer they are the sooner they will cover the ground. They are not difficult to make live, but the better you prepare the ground, and the more carefully you set them out, the better they will flourish.

4th. As to the time of setting them out.—This may be done in the autumn or spring; but I should prefer the spring; because when set out in the autumn, the frost is apt to throw them out of their place. This however can be prevented by a little flooding. I should set them out as early as possible in the spring.

5th. As to flooding. It is regarded as very important to be able to flood at pleasure. Supposing you set out your roots next spring; if you can flood them a little in the coming fall and winter, just so they may not be troubled by the frost and consequent heaving of the ground, they will come out bright and healthy in the spring.

6th. During the summer when the vines are growing, and the fruit is upon them, it is important to look out for the weather, and if there is danger of frost, flush the water over the ground, so as to prevent the bad effects upon the vines and the crop. When you can flow at pleasure in this way, you are almost sure of a crop annually.