

not his country forbid all prodigality? Does not the very soil itself cry out against it, and call upon him to till with care and thrift, by copiously rewarding the diligent hand, and sending forth the briar and thistle to vex and disappoint the wasteful?

(For the Farmer's Manual.)

LETTERS OF "A FARMER."

LETTER XV.

It is frequently amusing, as well as surprising, to hear the objections made to improvement. Some disapprove of publishing the capabilities of our soil and climate, lest our Government should be thereby induced to burthen us with Taxes; and others, with more reason, exclaim—"why we now raise more than we can dispose of;" and these remind me of the opinion of two of my acquaintances, about fourteen years since, having objected to my method of covering my manure from the weather. The one was certain that it would be so frozen through in the winter, that the frost would not be out of it until after the planting season; and the other thought that the fermentation would be so great, that it would ignite and burn my barn.

While I regret to see that some continue to drain the barn-yard into the river, and others to expose the naked dung heap in the field for half the year or more; I am also gratified to see that others cover their manure with the soil, and are very careful in adjusting their drains, to prevent unnecessary waste. An increased attention to draining and ridge ploughing, is also exhibited on many farms. Our surplus produce need not be wasted, even if we could be said to possess any, while we import provisions; and it is the character of the British Government to foster enterprise, and afford every reasonable encouragement to Agriculture.

Until we banish foreign provisions and fruits from our markets, by our own surplus, I shall consider our Agriculture far below its proper standard.

It has now become an imperative duty upon every wise politician, every legislator, and every fair trader, to encourage the produce and manufactures of our own country.

When provisions become dull in the market, we can raise hemp and flax, and manufacture it. If they will not do to export, they lessen our imports, which so often increase our debt. Let us give due encouragement to mechanics, and provide a settlement for a sufficient number of laborers, so that their wages may be retained in this country. A surplus of vegetables should increase the value of meat, which may be taken to market with little expense, and preclude the necessity of such heavy importations. It may also perfect that which is lacking in our pork, by making it equal to any imported.

How much is frequently lost by stopping a little short, instead of completing our undertaking, and how frequently this is verified, in killing our meat before it is well fatted. It does not answer for the farmer to stop in feeding, to calculate the value of the food, and compare it with the value of the additional pounds weight. He must also consider the additional value to the pounds already formed, and the necessity of completing his undertaking, to ensure him a remunerating price for the animal.

Purchasers should always be willing to give a remunerating price for a good article, and producers should be constantly careful to make their produce of the best description, to ensure that price. Until this is the case, we shall frequently hear of dull markets and disappointed farmers. A great complaint is made that our vegetables and

meat are nearly lost, by the low price they bear during the autumn; but farmers will generally find it to their advantage to adopt a new system. Let the producer be one class, the drovers and carriers another, and the sellers in market another. If a farmer goes to market with a load of potatoes, at 1s. per bushel, and spends the day, with two horses and a waggon, he may be said to lose his crop, and he might as well have his potatoes killed with the frost, as destroyed by bad management. Experience has clearly proved, that while a man has all kinds of business on hand, he brings not one branch to perfection. A FARMER.

(To the Editor of the Farmer's Manual.)

FREDERICTON, Nov. 20, 1843.

Sir,—I hope you will consider the following worth insertion in the "Farmers Manual." The article is valuable, treating as it does in *general Principles*, and can hardly be made public without producing good practical results.

Your's respectfully.

A SOMERSETSHIRE MAN.

SUCCESSION OF CROPS.

From "*Elements of a Practical Agricultural*," by Professor David Law, Esq.—A. C. Black, Edinburgh, 1843.

Plants, in so far as they derive their nutrient principles from the earth must, in growing, exhaust the soil of these principles. When, accordingly, successive crops of herbaceous plants are cultivated on the same ground, and the produce is carried away, the soil becomes less fitted to nourish succeeding races of plants, or in the language of farmers, is exhausted.

But, when the produce is not carried away, but is returned to the ground from which it had been taken, the soil is not necessarily exhausted of nutrient principles. Thus, if a crop of plants, when growing, is covered by the plough, the soil is not impoverished, but is enriched by the matter mixed with it, and this is a method of manuring land, which is practised in several countries, and which has been derived from early times.

In like manner, when land is allowed to produce the grasses and other herbage plants, and the produce is consumed by animals which gave their excrements upon the surface, the growth of the plants does not impoverish the soil. On the contrary, the consumption, or decay of the stems, leaves, and other parts of the plants, enriches the soil, returning to it those earthy, alkaline, and other principles which they had derived from it, and adding to it those matters of organic origin, which form one of the elements of its fertility. The laying down of cultivated land to grass, is accordingly one of the means employed by farmers to maintain, or increase, its powers of production.

Sometimes the process of decay of vegetable matters is counteracted by chemical changes which cause them to resist decomposition, as in the case of peat; but with this exception, the effect of the decay of vegetables upon the surface, is to add to the fertilizing matters of the soil.

But, in the practice of the farm, the cultivated produce is, for the most part, carried away, in whole or in part, from the ground on which it had grown. In such a case, the soil is always impoverished by the production of this crop, whatever the species of plants may be.