

communication from our practical agriculturists, while they are the persons who should feel the greatest interest in our periodical, and contribute the most readily to its pages. We shall now, as at all times be most happy to hear from them, and every attention shall be shewn to their communications.

Mr. WATTS of this place has invented a very ingenious machine for digging Potatoes. We have seen it in operation, and it answers the purpose excellently well. It is worked by two horses, and may be made to save four-fifths of the labor of potatoe digging. It must become one of the most useful appendages of the farm. As we understand the inventor intends to take out a patent, it would be wrong for us to enter into any further description.

(For the Farmer's Manual.)

LETTERS OF "A FARMER."

LETTER XIV.

The publication of my former Letters having elicited some opposite opinions among our farmers, I feel encouraged to hope that we may yet derive some useful information from united experience. Our farmers in New Brunswick are not altogether wanting in observation and energy in their occupation. If they were more communicative, however, they might afford much useful instruction to others.

One farmer is astonished to hear that another puts a roof over his dung-heap, for he has had his so situated as to receive the water from the roofs of two barns, and yet it becomes too dry and hot. Another was so careful of saving and maturing the dungheap that he had carried the urine from the vats in his stables and poured it on, but, for all this, it shewed a disposition to heat and be fire-funged.

With all due respect for the research, care and observation of such farmers, I would respectfully invite their attention to further research, until they become more fully satisfied by their own experience; while I would suggest the following remarks for their consideration.

1. Manure frequently drenched with the rain, and again drying, loses its strength, like tea that has been steeped, or any other vegetable; but if it is well mixed with vegetable and fossil matter, such as straw, hay, peat, earth or swamp mud, so as to secure and retain all the smell of the dung-heap that would escape in the air by drying, and all the fluid gasses that the water might extract by steeping, I had then as soon have the heap in the open air as to have it covered with a roof, while without that mixture nothing can be more destructive and wasteful than the alternate action of the air and water.

2. In all composts it is necessary to mix together such substances as will bring on decomposition of each other, and such as will retain the airiform gasses and absorb the fluids. The urine cannot be absorbed by or retained in the dung-heap unless that is well mixed, but by pouring it on earth, swamp mud, straw, or any other vegetable substance, it is at once absorbed, and immediately exerts it astonishing influence in decomposing the mass, and its powerful and active principle as a manure.

This is the proper season for beginning the

compost heap, and the remainder of the year the mass should not be forgotten.

Take the green dung from the stable and barn-yard to some convenient place, and then mix and pile it with swamp or brook mud in alternate layers and cover the whole with earth. In two months turn over the whole mass. If any drying or heat of the manure is then discovered, it is a proof that there was not enough of the fossil or mud to absorb all the airiform gasses—then add more, and if time permits, turn it again in two months after. Leave the heap three or four feet deep, see that all the dung is covered, and the top left flat, and it will be found in fine order for use next season.

One great excellence of such manure is that its strength is retained in the field for many years, while the dung unmixed from the stable exerts an immediate influence and sometimes hardly serve the crop the second year.

The great fame of Guano should induce some of our spirited agriculturists in the county of Charlotte to seek a load of it there. I have seen it on some of their uninhabited islands and among the tall and useless firs on the shores of the bay. Altho' its strength may be inferior to that procur'd from the Pacific Ocean, and its quantity much less, yet the short voyage and home production is well worth consideration.

Having suggested the proper season for preparing the compost heap, I will also take the liberty of recommending the three last days of July next as a good season for killing bushes, and as many of my countrymen raise too many bushes in their pastures, I hope they will try the effect of cutting them at that time, and let the public hear the result. Of all the bushes that infest our pastures the alder seems the most difficult to subdue. Cattle avoid them, and they generally sprout abundantly. I once knew an old farmer, who observed the seasons and changes of the moon, direct his sons to conclude their hay-making and cut the alder bushes in a certain place at such a time. The order was obeyed, and the bushes were killed root and branch. The time intimated was as late in July as might be done after the full of the moon. Again, the higher the bushes or trees are cut if below all the leaves the sooner the stump will rot and the less apt it will be to sprout again. Bushes cut with the grass in the meadow seldom sprout again.

All which is respectfully suggested by

A FARMER.

ST. JOHN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The Officers of this Society held their Monthly Meeting on Thursday, at the office of the Secretary, when it was determined that the Fair for this City and County should take place on Thursday the 31st day of October, at some convenient place in the City, which will be arranged for the purpose. The Monthly Market for October will be held at the same time and place. The prizes for the several objects of competition at the Fair will be awarded by Judges to be named by the Directors of the Society.

At the meeting on Thursday some very fine white turnips, grown the present season, in the garden attached to the Lunatic Asylum, were exhibited: the sizes and weight of five of them are as follows:

1st measuring	3 feet 3 inches	in circumference,	
and weighing,	- - -		13 lb. 12 oz.
2d	- 2 ft. 10 in.	- - -	10 15
3d	- 2 ft. 8 in.	- - -	7
4th	- 2 ft. 6 in.	- - -	6 15
5th	- 2 ft. 4 in.	- - -	5 2