

Draining.

We have so repeatedly written upon this subject, and recommended it as a means of increasing, so to speak, the length of the season and of its many advantages in other respects, that we shall now confine ourselves to the profits of draining as illustrated in the example we find recorded in the Maine State Board of Agriculture for 1871. It is taken from an address delivered by Samuel Johnson, A. M., before the Penobscot Agricultural Society:

"Some years since the son of an English farmer came to the United States, and hired as a farm laborer in New York State on the following conditions:—Commencing work the first day of September, he was to work ten hours a day for three years, and to receive in payment a deed of a field containing twelve acres,—securing himself by agreement, by which his employer was put under bonds of \$2000 to fulfil his part of the contract; also during these three years he was to have the control of the field, to work it at his own expense, and give his employer one-half the proceeds. The field lay under the south side of a hill, was of dark, heavy clay, resting on a bluish colored, solid clay sub-soil, and for many years previous had not been known to yield anything but a yellowish, hard, stunted vegetation. The farmer thought the young man was a simpleton, and that he, himself, was most wise and fortunate, but the young man, nothing daunted by this opinion, which he was not unconscious the farmer entertained of him, immediately hired a set of laborers and set them to work in the field, trenching as earnestly as it was possible for men to labor. In the morning and evening, before and after having worked his ten hours, as per agreement, he worked with them, and continued to work this way until about the middle of the following November he had finished the laying of nearly 5000 yards of good tile under-drain. He then had the field ploughed deep and thoroughly, and the earth thrown up as much as possible into ridges, and thus let it remain during the winter. The next spring he had the field again ploughed, then cross-ploughed, and thoroughly pulverized with a heavy harrow, and then sowed with oats and clover. The yield was excellent—nothing compared to it had even been before seen upon that field.—Next year it gave two crops of clover of rich dark green, and enormously heavy and luxuriant; and the year following, after being manured at an expense of some \$7 an acre, 9 acres yielded 936 bushels of corn, and 25 wagon loads of pumpkins; while from the remaining three acres were taken 1000 bushels of potatoes—the return of this crop being upwards of \$1,200.—The time had now come for the land to fall into the young man's possession, and the farmer unhesitatingly offered him the sum of \$1,500 to relinquish his title to it; and when this was refused he offered \$2000—which was accepted. Thus the young man received, besides the ordinary pay of \$16 per month, \$1,376 as his net gain on the twelve acres of land."

Nothing need be added to the above statement, for if it is not convincing proof of the benefits of draining, we are at a loss to know where better proof is to be found.

We extract the above from the Colonial Farmer, published at Fredericksburg, New Brunswick, a weekly Agricultural paper. It contains a great deal of useful Agricultural matter; but we regret to see from the editor's pen that there is not sufficient encouragement given to his useful and instructive paper. He complains about the postage, and the general lack of support; and hints that the paper may not be continued unless better supported.—We really hope, for the credit of the Agricultural community of New Brunswick, that they will put their shoulders to the wheel and help their editor to not only continue his excellent and useful journal, but enable him to improve

it, as we are confident he has the ability to do, if he is furnished with means and facilities.—New Brunswickers, wherever you are, and whatever position you held, subscribe for and aid your only agricultural paper. Do not let it die out for the lack of your little aid.

A Cheap Hot Bed.

Get a common large "W" goods box—as large as you like, or several of them if you need so many. Fill it with fresh, dry stable manure, and water it gently as you put it in. When the box is two-thirds full, put on about two or three inches of rich, fine soil, and sow your seed; then put a common window sash—or make one to fit—over it, and put the box in a sunny spot, sheltered from the north and west winds. Water occasionally, and give air on hot days. You will thus have plenty of fine plants at small cost. Eyen a common barrel will answer a pretty good purpose.

[Better late than never. Keep this for next year.]

Wash for Buildings.

Take of good unslaked lime half a bushel; slake with warm water (rain water if convenient) in a forty-five gallon barrel.—Keep covered while slacking. Use just enough water to slake dry. Let the lime stand four or five hours to insure its being well slaked. If it is desirable to have a good, smooth wash, the slaked lime should be sifted through a moderately fine sieve; if to be used on barns, out-buildings and fences, it is not material about sifting.

To the lime thus prepared add enough water to half fill the barrel, and then add two gallons of flour starch, hot; one quart of grease, to make it run smooth; four pounds of melted rosin, hot, to make it stick. The flour starch will have the same effect.

Some use salt in making whitewash.—We would not, as salt in damp weather causes the wash to crack and scale off.

After preparing the whitewash as above, fill your barrel with water, cold or hot, and you will have a wash that will stand quite well for five years. To color dark or slate, use lampblack; for yellow, use yellow ochre; for blue, use indigo; for different shades of color, vary to suit. If the wash gets too thick, make it thin with water. The older the above whitewash becomes, the better it will be, if it is kept covered with water, and not allowed to become hard.

[This information alone ought to be worth the price of the paper to every one of our subscribers. Who has not wood-work that is now rotting for the lack of such a dressing?]

Bones and Ashes.

Bones and ashes pass through the house-keeper's hands every day. Wood is still the chief fuel in farm houses, and the value of the ashes is pretty well understood. They are prized for the lye they yield, and if there is a surplus from the soap making they help the kitchen garden at the back door. The bones are generally thrown to the dog and lost. Now, if the careful housewife would save the bones as regularly as the ashes, she would practice a wiser economy, and help her kitchen garden twice as fast. Bones are worth twice as much as ashes for manure, if dissolved, and the ashes will reduce them. Put both into a barrel in the cellar, if you please, and after mixing them half and half, keep them constantly wet with soap suds, the hotter the better. The suds should not be poured on in such quantities as to leach the ashes. In a few months the bones will be disintegrated, and the whole mass may then be mixed, and will make an excellent fertilizer for the flower border or the kitchen garden.

[This is another hint that ought to be worth the price of the paper to every one of you.]

Time for Cows to Come in.

A cow that drops her calf in April is of more profit than one that comes in earlier in the year, with the same care and feed. If your cows drop their calves in February, or the first part of March, you will have to feed largely with grain, roots, etc., the rest of the feeding season, and you will have to make an article of butter which must be sold immediately, as you cannot keep spring butter, nor can you make butter as cheaply with the mercury at zero or below, as when thirty or sixty degrees above. By the first of June, whether you have fed extra or not, your cows will fall off in quantity and quality of milk, and you will have a small yield of butter through the heat of the season; when, if they had come in six or eight weeks later, they would have gone out to grass heavy and strong, and capable of giving the largest quantity and the best quality of butter.

By the first of October, your cows will be nearly or quite dry, when, if they had dropped their calves in April, you would have found that October was the most profitable book of the season. And further, you will find this month and the next the best to feed grain to cows.

All cows in a herd should drop their calves as near the same time as possible.—If one should drop her calf after you have commenced to pack and put away butter, do not put her milk with the rest for two weeks or more, as it is impossible to keep butter made from it, and it will damage the rest. This is one very common source of an occasional bad tub of butter.—Ex.

What is Practical Farming.

Will any of our readers inform us who are the practical farmers? Is it those who have a practical knowledge of all the truths connected with Agriculture, and industry enough to put their knowledge to use? Must not a practical farmer necessarily be a scientific one? Does "science mean knowledge reduced to a system, so as to be easily taught and readily understood" or does it mean something else? Does it render a farmer less practical if he writes what he ascertains; as truths, and permits those truths to be printed for the benefit of others? If he reads truth ascertained by other farmers, and adopts what his scientific knowledge enables him to select as such, is he less a practical farmer? Can it be such a man as represented above, or is every practical farmer necessarily a book farmer? Can it be supposed that any one man exists, who, without books, and from his own observation alone, has surpassed the requirements of a world for five thousand years, and if this is not a supposable case, how can any man assume to be a practical farmer, without being a book farmer, so far as to know what others have done before him? If this is not so, how is it that no one farmer lived 120 years ago, who knew the truths which have since been ascertained?

We should advise those who deride the ambitious and spirited investigators after truth, by calling them book farmers, to convince themselves of their folly by employing lawyers and divines, who are practical without ever having used books, unread judges, doctors who have their own experience alone, and who have scorned to take advantage by the printed experience of others. Take practical sailors from the canal boats, and make them commanders of national vessels, and you have a fair simile of a practical farmer—who is not a book farmer—a practical farmer who has no science. Who ever learned navigation without the use of a book? Find such a man and you will have an ordinary "hand before the mast," and not a practical sailor. Have not the mechanic arts been advanced by science until the very age seems

to have perfected thousands of labor-savings, which the last century would have laughed at us as visionary? And are the farmers an exception to the rest of mankind, that they, or part of them, should assume to know more of the mysteries of nature's laws than could be obtained by scientific researches? Is the term book farmer intended as significant of a fool?—If so, we beg to enroll ourselves among them; for we cannot consent to be a member of a party in any craft, whose egotism leaves them no claim to greatness or usefulness, than to deride the more active minded members of the fraternity.

Is it not pitiable at this date, after the outward march of improvement has taught men to tear apart the constitution of any substance in nature, and to know with certainty what they are, that some should suppose that synthesis held charms and processes not encompassed by analysis.

Can any reasonable man suppose that a plant can grow better, and increase more rapidly, in soils not containing the simples of which by analysis we know it to be formed, than in one replete with all the required constituents; and yet we have many who would argue that chemistry can furnish no instruction to the farmer.

There may be some men who at this day do not believe that the earth is round, and cannot conceive any other form for it than a flat surface; but still it does not alter the fact. Many suppose that no success can be had with crops not planted at particular times of the moon, and nothing could induce them to try the experiment of planting any other time.

Can any man of sound and unbiased judgment rail out against improvements which are daily establishing themselves as truths? Are the farmers to be the last of the body politic who will fairly investigate the truths of their own profession, or will they forever be the tools of the more energetic classes of the community? We are, as a class, apathetic; we pay three quarters of the expenses of the government, and quietly permit all other crafts to be fostered and our own neglected; we pay heavy duties on imports, and ask no corresponding facilities for our benefit.—Ex.

TENDER MOUTHED HORSES.—Some horses will always be exceedingly tender in the mouth, while others are sometimes almost unmanageable. The corroding of the iron bridle bit in the mouth of a thin-skinned high-strung animal, will sometimes produce canker inside of the mouth just as mechanics often get sore mouths by holding cut nails in their lips while at work. Sometimes the headstall is buckled up so short that the iron bit is drawn up with much force against the sides of the mouth. If the skin is tender, the animal will be liable to have a sore mouth; and the wound will be so very tender that scarcely the pressure of the weight of the reins can be endured. Sometimes the check-rein is drawn up unmercifully tight. All such things cause sore mouth. The most satisfactory remedy for a sore mouth is a preventative. If the head stall is too short, lengthen it, so that the bit may ride low down toward the lips. If the sore is produced by drawing up the check rein too tightly, give it greater length. If the nature of the iron is such that rust from the bit poisons the tender mouth, let the bit be covered with a piece of firm leather, sewed on with the seam on the lower side of the bit, so that the smooth leather may come in contact with the mouth. Let a heavy piece of calfskin be employed to cover the bit rather than thin, flappy leather. If the iron about the mouth be galvanized thoroughly, that will prevent all corrosion of the iron and consequent injury to the mouth.

Chicago is to have a swine exhibition on the 19th, 20th and 21st of September. The prizes are larger than we have ever seen offered for that class of animals, varying from \$20 to \$750. The second prize is to be \$500; 3rd, \$250; 4th and 5th, \$200 each, and gradually decreasing to \$20.