

whatever kind or quality, should be kept up to a *fair standard of vegetative power, and free from weeds*, to ensure a good crop, as far as man can do it in this or any other climate. I know, Mr. Editor, that many object to what is called a *naked fallow*, or resting and cleaning the land by this means for one year, but I have never seen a better plan to begin with (I mean a fallow of moulds, not large blocks of clay) and it has been generally admitted to be as good as a coat of manure in most cases; except good land lying near a town, as Mr. Mores of Albany, for instance, which he gardens and farms also, which can seldom be done. Indeed I have not met with a man who could carry on a large scale of sound practical Horticulture and Agriculture to advantage; nor is it absolutely necessary; and as labour is too dear here, and money very scarce, I think a farmer need not fill his buildings with too much complicated and expensive machinery, such as require many men and horses, with an engineer also [as Mr. Niechi of Tiptree hall does.] I think a half or whole drill of Mr. Smith's, of Suffolk, a two or four horse power thrashing machine, a good fanning mill, a set or sets of Rhomb harrows, with good ploughs, and double ones for horse hoeing corn, grain or potatoes, with a good set of scarifiers to save ploughing and to put in spring grain with, fitted up with wrought iron which will last his life time [for I used them 37 years with little cost] and *great saving of labour*. I think the above all the implements necessary for good cultivation on these lands, with a *good quantity* of seed also, which is here, I observe, often scanty and sometimes not good. I observe a correspondent recommend the Prescott plough as one of the best. Could you favour your readers with a draft or sketch of one, with its dimensions? I have not seen a good one here; for a short beam, a short bottom and short handles, never made a good plough yet. I think I bought the first patent plough that Messrs. Ransome of Ipswich made on the 22nd of Aug., 1809 or '10; the plan was good, but the plough has been much strengthened and improved since, and I believe is in general use. I prefer a plough with a beam 7 ft. 4 in. long, the bottom 3 ft. 10 in. long, handles 5 ft. 3 in. long, the end of the beam to be what is called pitched 1 ft. 2 in. from the ground, so that the mechanical or straight line of draught goes from the point of the share, or coulter if fixed on it, to the end of the beam and thence to the hook of the hame, which keeps the plough to a steady uniform depth, and a small wheel, or even two, keeps it more so. The ploughs made here have a very short mould board suddenly turned, which breaks the clay land up into large heavy blocks, which, when dried by the sun and wind, destroy all powers of vegetation even of weeds, spoil the

land in fallowing, and, when sown, produce only half a crop of bad grain and take a year or two of rain and frost to pulverize them again, and a coat of manure also; whereas, with moderate ploughing, scarifying twice or thrice at a cost of 1s. 6d. per acre, would prepare the ground for a good crop.

I know of no clay land being ploughed for spring grain in England, for the last fifty years. I am very glad the model farm is to try fleet, moderate, and deep ploughing; as I have seen the latter double the labour, grow sometimes a rank straw, but never saw it produce a good and great crop of grain, but have seen the dry grain taken from under the clods in harvest time, before I got the scarifier, but not after. As grain sells so low, I believe the Dairy' would pay much better, if we had some good Dairy maids. Would you be so kind as to inform your readers at what degree of heat good butter and cheese are made with any certainty? I think cream should be warmed up to 62 degrees to make butter, and new milk warmed to 92 degrees to make good cheese; but as you, or your numerous correspondents could give the desired information, you would be doing great and good service by doing so, as many thousand dollars annually go over into the States to buy cheese, which might be laid out in buying useful articles here, such as *free trade* prevents our buying.

I regret that I do not see what used to be called a regular, permanent, and good routine system of cropping these clay lands, as I have been, at heart, a practical Horticultural and Agricultural man for 50 years, and shall always remain a lover of them; but I do not like to see a free trade manufacturer make himself a pauper by wishing to be fed by the farmer for nothing; this is unchristian avarice. Now, with respect to cropping clay land, at taking a farm out of order and in a poor state, generally the case, we began a fourth of the land with a good fallow with moulds, not with large blocks of clay, in which no weed could vegetate; this was sometimes manured and sown with wheat, except where mildew was feared; then with peas, beans or barley, afterwards with oats or barley; but where mildew was feared, the wheat, oats and

* I do not like these great tender Durham Cows; they cost too much to keep for the milk they give. I prefer the native Cows—they are more hardy and pay better; but I think the Galloway and Angushira Oxen and Cows would do better and fat faster.

† I have known a farmer entirely ruined by constantly laying on ashes for wheat; it made the straw too rank, and it mildewed every year. I think ploughing in a large crop of clover or buckwheat would do the same. Lime, 80 bus. per acre, prevents it on clay land, and 14 bus. of salt per acre, prevents it on sandy land.