

THE ROTATION OF CROPS.

While I know there are individuals among you who practice what I am about to advocate, yet it may not be amiss to ask the question of you, gentlemen, whether you should not rotate oftener. It is better to suffer a piece of land to run completely out before you break it up, or to do so when it is in a condition to produce a respectable crop? It is better to take a lean to fatten animal and fatten him or one in good flesh?

I have noticed this fact among a few farmers who rotate often, that they do not require near the amount of manure to secure a good crop that they otherwise would. A soil with a crop becomes hard and more subject to drought than one in good condition; and it becomes a question whether the farmer should not turn into pasture, or sell, all land that he cannot keep in a good state of cultivation. It seems to me that this would form a pretty good test for the farmer to judge of the size of the farm he should carry on.

It is well known that some vegetables will not do well for a succession of years on the same soil, while others may be continued for any length of time. The onion will do quite as well for half a century on the same spot, because it derives a large portion of its support from the atmosphere. This rule may hold good with all large plants, that have a small fibrous root, like that plant.

Experience has already indicated to the farmer what crops prove best in rotation, so that it is doubtful whether much more is to be learned in this direction until farther advances are made in scientific agriculture.

Reading Papers, &c.

There are many families living in the vicinity of post offices, who do not take papers or periodicals of any kind, who never read except some one makes them a present of an old paper, while there are others, not a few, that let their papers lie in the Post office for months. We fear that such people think but little about the improvement of the mind or the eventful character of the times in which they live.

We have no hesitation in saying, that such families are almost sure of growing up as blanks in society, unfit to deal with facts beyond those of their own grovelling and sensual appetites, or act well their part on the arena of human existence; Show us a family who do not read, which is the best way to improve the mind, and we point you to a family who rank little, if any, above the Indians, who camp in our forests.

We know of families with a post office almost at their door, who allow their papers, etc., to lie for weeks without being called for. Parents who act in this way must expect their children to do the same. Others send for their papers on Saturday evening or Sabbath morning, so that the Sabbath may be devoted to the study of them.