

narrow single board, and earthed up on each side to the board. I then completely cover with earth the next six feet, then lay another board four feet, and so on alternately to the end of the heap. I prefer this system of ventilation to the straw chimney. I find in the spring a few turnips just under the board, where the steam escapes frozen, but consider that the loss of these is fully balanced by the entire absence of rottenness in the remainder."

Be careful in feeding turnips this winter; they will be very valuable ere spring set in.

Harvesting Turnips.

The writer has grown turnips for many years, both in England and in Canada, and after trying all the plans recommended for harvesting, has come to the conclusion that there is none so good or available as to take a sharp hoe, ground as sharp as a chisel, and with it to slice off the green close to the root, or nearly so, and when these have been removed, or consumed by cattle on the ground, to load, with sufficient weight, an inverted harrow, and by dragging it over the field to pull out the turnips from the earth. Some may be left, but if the turnips are well grown, almost all will be so entirely extracted that the labour of getting up the remainder will be greatly lessened. Moreover, if the harrow be of the right construction, when you pass a certain distance, by raising it a little the turnips will be deposited in rows, more or less close together, according to the crop, the shape and efficiency of the harrow, and the skill of the workman. I have often thought that a revolving rake, or series of bars, constructed somewhat like a revolving hay rake, would be found a most useful implement. Nothing will assist filling the turnips into the waggon equal to a three-pronged, long handled, pitching fork, by which often three turnips can be picked up at once and deposited over the edge of the waggon box, and that, too, without your hands being half frozen in snowy or sleety weather. A little talent for ingenuity is just as valuable on a farm as in a millwright's or mechanic's shop; in fact, I never saw the time that it was not useful. There are, however, some dunderheads who never think for themselves, and condemn others who think for them; and for these people pulling up turnips with one hand, chopping off the greens with a knife with the other, allowing the turnips to lie just where they fell or grew, scattered all over the field, again to be picked up into a basket, and by help of a second man lifted into the waggon, which stands about twenty yards into the turnip-patch—I say any old-fashioned, duck-headed plodder, who persists in this course, well deserves what he gets, namely, slow work, half frozen hands, and dear turnips when done.

C.

Curing Corn Fodder.

The great difficulty with all novices is to prevent the stalks from heating and spoiling when stacked or heaped together. For this reason they should never be placed in large masses. We have known large stacks to become ruined in three days after the stocks had dried for several weeks in shock in the field, and when the owner supposed them to be perfectly cured. Thickly grown fodder is soft and fine, and lies compactly together; the amount of juice remaining in the stock is sufficient to originate powerful fermentation. It may be prevented by making large and erect shocks in the field, to remain there till drawn for winter use; or by building small stacks, and placing three or four erect rails in the centre, around which the stack is built, thus leaving an opening or chimney through which the vapour escapes; or by scattering them to dry, over the tops of the bays of hay in the barn and sheds, to a thickness of some three feet.

The fodder may be cut in three ways. If the ground is smooth—by means of a reaping machine, the stalks after drying a few days on the ground to be raked together with a horse-rake, and then drawn off and either spread over hay mows and in shed lofts, or put in small stacks with ventilators or chimneys in the centre, as just described. Or the stalks may be cut with a common scythe, a little practice and skill enabling the operator to throw the tops all one way, so that they may be gathered and bound in bundles; or they may be cut with a common corn-cutter by hand.

Every person who raises corn fodder or feeds it to cattle, should remember that when perfectly cured, so as to retain its sweet flavour and green colour, it is one of the best kinds of food that cattle can live on; while if allowed to become wet, mouldy, discoloured and dark brown or black, it is little better than poison. It is by feeding such unwholesome, badly dried fodder, that some careless farmers have come to the conclusion that corn fodder is poor food for animals. Hence the importance of perfect curing.—*Country Gentleman.*

Subsoiling at Small Cost.

In the *Gardener's Chronicle*, of August 12, 1871, there is a most practical and useful article entitled "Thin-skinned land," well worth any one's studying. The observations therein coincide most entirely with experience, and I am well convinced that the subsoiling there spoken of is a most useful mode of ploughing. The cost is the great objection, as to subsoil a field amounts in reality to something more than ploughing it. Now, to obtain as much as possible the same benefit, and at the same time not to expend too much time on the land, we need only follow the plan often used in a certain part of England, called "ridge and furrowing," and

when striking out the first furrow, allow the plough to return in the same one just drawn, and by setting the plough somewhat deeper, and by laying it well down on the land side, a high ridge will be formed and a furrow also that will stir the subsoil at least four inches below ordinary plough gauge, leaving the subsoil exposed to the frost and air all winter. At the same time the great advantages gained are that the team can readily plough three acres a day, and the land so ploughed in the fall will lie dry and "wholesome" all the winter, and when spring comes will be dry enough to get into at least one week earlier than any land ploughed in the ordinary manner. Any one who will take the trouble to draw a section of "ridge and furrowing" ploughing, will see that after two or three years of such treatment of the land a most efficient subsoiling will be the result. It is true the whole of the land is not subsoiled the first year, but the next will be sure to do nearly all, especially if the ridges of the second and third year cross those of the first; and in the spring, when the ridges are split, the team will easily go over three acres a day. This, it will be readily seen, must be quite an ordinary day's work, and be much lighter ploughing than when first done in the fall previous. If potatoes or turnips are going to be planted, and manure used, it can be spread on the furrows, and being well buried when the ridges are split, will all be just under the growing plant. Perhaps such manuring is better, if done in the fall, for the root crops following in the spring; but every farmer has not time to prepare his land for root crops in the autumn previous to sowing. The value of this description of fall ploughing is further seen by measuring the large surface of subsoil that is thus exposed to the action of the air and frost. It will be seen that nearly one-third of the whole field is thus subsoiled each year, and the substratum underneath the subsoil that is moved into the ridges is of about the same quantity thoroughly thereby exposed to the action of the elements. C.

THE POTATO BLIGHT IN IRELAND.—During the last few weeks the blight has spread to such an extent in Ireland, according to some accounts, that it is feared the potato crop will be almost ruined. In some fields in Tipperary full nine-tenths have rotted already, and the remainder is despaired of. There has not been such a heavy visitation since the great famine twenty-five years ago; and, were it not for the favourable condition of cereal crops, the consequence might be as disastrous as then to the peasantry. In the neighbourhood of the potato land the air is most disagreeable from the oppressive odour caused by the blight. The farmers are bringing large quantities to market, fearing that the disease may get worse. On the other hand, Mr. Alderman Purdon, ex-Lord Mayor of Dublin and proprietor of the *Irish Farmer's Gazette*, says that the reports as to the extent of the potato blight in Ireland are very much exaggerated.