

LETTER FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

MR. EDITOR:—Our country is comparatively new—the growth of timber thrifty, making heavy clearing; our hard wood being principally beach, maple, and red birch, in some parts oak, chestnut, cherry, and ash, with an occasional sprinkle of hickory; large bodies of hemlock may be seen over the whole country—in fact they are rarely ever out of sight. The soil is universally good and deep, no hard-pan, and well watered, well calculated for growing purposes. Oats have been raised as a first crop after clearing, averaging 100 bushels and over to the acre. It appears to be, in fact, better calculated for dairy and stock farming than any other country adjoining the State line on either side; but seven-eighths of our farmers are still heavily in debt to the land-owners for their farms, probably for the reason that they have not known how to clear to the best advantage, or so make the most from their crops on such new lands.

Have not some of your subscribers the time and data at hand to show the higher value of such lands, considering its proximity to a commercial mart, compared with the somewhat lighter *first labors* on western lands, to which so many of our best farmers are flocking, that must always be at a great distance from the seaboard,—with all the advantages for transportation that steam and internal improvements may afford?

A subscriber to your journal would be glad to know the best and most economical method of clearing heavy timbered land, say hard wood or hemlock lands, and the best rotation of crops for a new beginner.

J. M. HAMILTON.

COUDERSPORT, Pa.

WHEAT, GRASS, &c.

MR. EDITOR:—In reply to your note of inquiry asking for the particulars of my practice of seeding down lands to grass, &c., I will say I have used clover exclusively when my only object was to benefit the soil; but for pasture or hay, a mixture of clover or timothy—say two parts clover to one of timothy—is preferable. In sowing grass seeds, we usually mix them together by hand, the last of March or first of April; although I think timothy should be sown in the fall—say the last of September.

The two varieties of wheat that have succeeded best with me, are the *Soule's* and the *Mediterranean*. The *Soule's* to be sown on the ridge land, and the

Mediterranean on the flat portions. The *Mediterranean* is less affected by the weevil than any other variety—the fly we know but little about.

With us, the four-rowed barley gives the best yield. Since wheat has got to be so uncertain a crop, we are in the habit of sowing wheat after barley. We plow our barley stubble once or twice, as circumstances may require; but first of all, land should be in a high state of cultivation. This appears to be the cheapest way to raise wheat—I will not say it is the best.

The *Spitzenburgh* apple yields very well, and also the *Fall Pippin*; and both are very saleable. No one general rule or routine of practice can be given to suit all cases, for we have to vary our seed-time and harvest as the season seems to require.

Yours truly, J. KIPP.

BENTON, N. Y.

WIRE FENCES—MANURE CELLARS.

MR. EDITOR:—I have been much surprised by seeing so frequent recommendations in our agricultural journals of Osage orange hedges, or of any hedges at all. Can a farmer whose land is worth one hundred dollars an acre, afford to lose a strip of fifteen feet for a fence? which is the least possible quantity of land a hedge can occupy. I am told they are going entirely out of use in England; and they should do so wherever land is of any value. It may be asked, what can we have? and to this the best answer is, have an outside fence, and *no other*, but as this, in our present mode of farming, is impossible, I believe a substitute may be found. Not, however, a fence made of piano wire, but a six-wire fence, made of No. 4 wire and iron posts, with stretchers at every hundred feet, which can be slackened in winter and drawn up in the spring. This fence can be made for \$1.75 a rod, takes no room, and will last a life-time. It will turn anything but a hog, and even those if of any respectable breed. It throws no shade, and is the easiest fence to keep in order that can be made.

Have you ever seen a barn cellar for manure that did not give a most ammoniacal atmosphere for the cattle above it to breathe, or which did not have some of the manure in a very bad dry state to be carted out in the spring? The cellar, by constant labor can be kept in a good state; but did you ever see it done? Manure absorbents used in quantity in stables is a cheaper way, and then a manure shed and pit in the barn-yard saves expense and labor.

I have tried an experiment for making a warm cel-