

ficient food to soil 20 head of cattle, of a night, from the middle of July till frost, besides affording one crop of harvest.

Independent of the relief such management would afford to the pastures, the milch cows would yield more and better milk, as lucerne is known to contribute to the quantity and quality of that article, in an eminent degree. Another advantage to result from the system of night soiling, would be the greatly increased quantity of manure which the farmer would be enabled to make; and every body knows that manure made in the *summer*, is infinitely richer than that accumulated through the winter.

The labor of cutting and feeding out the green food for soiled cattle, we are aware has much force of objection with those who are content to let them pick up a precarious sustenance where they list; but to the economical farmer, who looks at the subject with a judicious, calculating eye, such objection should have no weight whatever, as the intrinsic value of the extra manure made, would more than compensate for the *time* thus occupied.

There is another reason that has tended to retard the culture of lucerne. Most of the writers upon the subject of its culture, insist upon the necessity of drilling it, and whether rightfully or otherwise, we are aware that great aversion prevails among most American husbandmen, to such pains-taking culture. But we are fully impressed with the belief, that, if the ground be well and thoroughly prepared with a view to the destruction of weeds, that *broadcast* cultivation will answer every valuable purpose. If we were asked how we would prepare the ground, we would say, that it should be plowed deeply and subsoiled in the spring as early as good work could be done; that after harrowing, it should be permitted to remain until a crop of weeds started, when they should be plowed in a few inches; then we would harrow it and let it remain until a *second* crop of weeds had covered the ground, when we would haul on our manure, plow that in, harrow the ground finely, sow the seed 20 lbs. to the acre, harrow it lightly, in sow on the surface ten bushels of lime and as many of ashes to the acre, and finish by rolling.

If notwithstanding our pains in the preparation of the ground, weeds should make their appearance in quantities to threaten the lucerne, we should have them extirpated the first season. After that there would be no danger to be apprehended, as from the rapid growth of the lucerne, it would protect itself from all intruders of the weed kind.

With regard to the after-culture of the lucerne, we would top-dress it every fall with a compost made of equal parts of well rotted manure and ashes, taking care to give the ground a good harrowing always before spreading the compost; after the latter operation we would pass the roller over it, and each spring, as early as possible, we would spread a bushel of plaster over each acre of it.

This may be considered a troublesome method of culture; but it is only so in appearance; for whatever a man *wills* to do, is, in reality, no trouble at all, provided he sets his heart to its accomplishment; therefore, the apparent labor indicated by our method, should be viewed as trifling, when it is considered that a field of lucerne once well set, will serve as a soiling resource for ten or twelve years, and that by pursuing the plan of yarding and feeding the cattle at home of nights, the farmer is enabled to provide his crops with a more abundant supply of manure which would be otherwise dropt where it would be unavailing to him.

These are then considerations which should not be

without their influence. The cattle generally would look better; the milch cows would be more docile, give more and better milk, and consequently yield more and richer butter, while the whole would enter upon their winter keep in better condition.—*American Farmer*.

LUCERNE.—In no former period (says a correspondent of the *Mark-Lane Express*), have I experienced the value of lucerne, as during the present protracted drought; I have now nearly finished my first crop, which I have been cutting green for horses and cows, much of which measures in height 36 inches, and very thick; my second crop is now from 24 to 26 inches high, and as thick as the first. I am now about cutting this for hay. It does not appear to be in the least affected by the severe drought, which I attribute to the very great depth the roots run down. I would again urge all farmers to try to grow lucerne, for of all summer food for horses, this is the very best: I am inclined to say, likewise, nothing can be better food for cows, for my own have lived entirely upon it the last three weeks, my feeding pasture being quite burned up for want of rain, and have produced a full quantity of butter.—*Mark-Lane Express*.

From the *Boston Cultivator*.

RECLAIMING EXHAUSTED LAND.

MESSRS. EDITORS,—I present you with the following experiment in reclaiming worn out lands, which will be read with interest; for the mode adopted is so judicious and rational, that such a course of procedure must of necessity prove decidedly advantageous under any circumstances. I have no doubt the plan of mixing lime with earth before using, would be found of far greater importance in the application of that article to land than any other mode; allow me, therefore to call the attention of your readers to the circumstance of the compost acquiring, by frequent turning, "the appearance and smell of soaper's ashes," and proceed to give, in the words of the writer, the following interesting statement. S. MARSHALL.

I will inform you, the Rockland Farm exhibited a subject for experiment, as it has been reduced by cropping. Having read in various books the result of sowing plaster and clover, it was presumed that the sowing of these would be the extent of the expenses required to fertilize the fields in a few years; but the experiment proved that the plaster and clover used were both lost, as no one could point out at any season of the year, what field they had been deposited upon. The soil was a cold or heavy clay, blue, white, light brown, and a few spots of red clay, loaded with hard blue stone and rocks, chiefly quartz, mixed with iron and copper. Some of the experiments were made with plaster; others were made by top-dressing with lime, at the rate of 25 to 30 bushels per acre; the lime being brought 25 miles from the kiln, and laid on the land at 25 cents per bushel. It was formed into a bed, six inches in thickness, and covered with earth that had been ploughed and thrown over it before it was slacked; a heavy harrow was passed over it as soon as it had been reduced to powder, and the bed of lime and the earth then frequently turned by the plough and harrow, until the whole assumed the appearance and smell of soaper's ashes, containing about ten parts of common soil to one of lime. It was then carted and spread regularly over the field; and in every instance it gave a return of clover, equal to ten loads of etable manure to the acre. The idea of mix-