

stores which are always near the cattle which are likely to eat the greatest quantity of them. Transports are thus avoided, and with them an economy of time and fodders lost on the way is realized. It is impossible for us to give a description of the farm buildings which plans only could explain.

After having realized such a fine plan of culture, Mr. Mecki, who had benefited English agriculture, was justly deserving general gratitude, but he did not want to stand there. The *System of liquid manure* was then spoken of, he was one of the first to apply it on his farm.

This system consists in taking down all the water, of the manure heaps in a great cistern. And when the liquid has fermented and is properly diluted with water, it is driven back, by means of pumps, in underground pipes, which open in the middle of each field. We thus water well with manure water or liquid manure everytime crops want it. This system realizes all we can desire for the cultivation of field productions.

With the present system, generally practised, manures which, to feed plants, must be decomposed, dissolved in water, and absorbed by the plant, are applied. What assures us that the decomposition of manure will take place when vegetation will have the greatest want of it? Is it not to be feared on the contrary that a great drought will stop that decomposition; or that an abundant rain, will wash the manure from the substances which should feed the plants, and carry them down to some stream in the neighbourhood? With the system of liquid manures, there are none of these losses. The farmer may proportion the manures to the wants of the plants; he may to a certain extent follow them during all the stages of their vegetation and supply them with manure according

to their wants. Every application has a sure and instantaneous effect; consequently a recent seedbed will not suffer by an unseasonable drought, when it will be sufficient to open a cock to cool and fertilize the soil.

Mr. Lecouteux, in his excellent work entitled "*Principes économiques de la culture améliorante*," makes the following remarks: Manures can only be applied before the sowing of the land: liquid manures, and it is one of their great advantages can be distributed to certain plants, when they are in the first stages of vegetation. The importance of this result is easily understood; it is with plants, every one knows it, as with all organized beings; the vigour of the first age is one of the best securities of their future vigour. In this state of solubility, manures are *a ready elaborated food, all ready* to vegetable assimilation. Transformed immediately in crops, they then represent a capital, essentially active and circulating. By them agricultural production resembles manufacturing production, which owes to a great extent its greatest benefits, to investments of funds for a short time, to more frequent receipts, to operations more frequently repeated in the same year.

This is the point agriculture has arrived to! This national industry formerly abandoned to the weekest, most ignorant and less intelligent men in a nation, has justly conquered the position which it deserved by its influence on the prosperity or ruin of nations! History had learned this influence to us, when the disasters which followed the disease of potatoes in Ireland gave so terrible a proof of it. Since that time, this truth was universally recognized by all and even by the throne, when Napoléon III wrote it in clear and precise terms, with the talent known to him: Improvements of agriculture, he said, should be the object of our constant