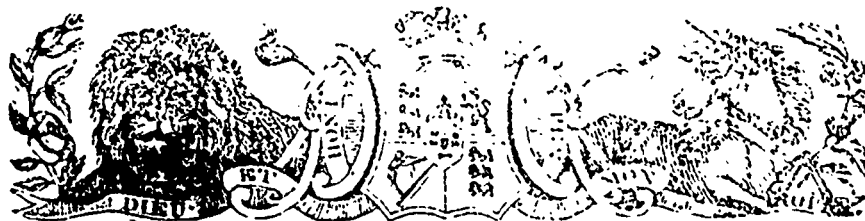


# THE CANADA FARMER



## A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE.

Vol. 1:

HAMILTON, C. W., MAY, 1855.

No. 5.

### The Canada Farmer,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

AGRICULTURE &amp; HORTICULTURE,

Published at Hamilton, C. W.

JOHN E. FORCE, PUBLISHER AND PROPRIETOR.

EACH NUMBER CONTAINS 32 ROYAL OCTAVO PAGES, IN  
DOUBLE COLUMNS, AND TWELVE NUMBERS FORM  
A VOLUME OF 384 PAGES IN A YEAR.

Terms, Invariably in Advance.

One Copy, ..... 2s. 6d.  
Five Copies, ..... 10s. 0d.  
Eight Copies, ..... 15s. 0d.

And at the same rate for any larger number.

#### SUBTERRANEAN APPLICATION OF LIQUID MANURE.

A Mr. WILKINS has patented in England an ingenious plan for applying liquid manure directly to the bottom of the roots of plants, in the subsoil, instead of using it upon the surface of the ground in the usual way. There is but one serious objection to it, and that is its expensiveness, which is likely to prevent its general adoption. The liquid manure is conveyed under the surface soil and growing crops in tubes, not unlike draining tile, allowing a line of pipes to each row of turnips, corn, potatoes, or other agricultural plant. To avoid the loss of manure by its infiltration into the subsoil and deep earth, the whole area operated upon has the surface soil removed to the depth of twenty, or more inches, and the denuded surface is covered with water-lime, cement, or pounded clay, to render it impervious to water, when the surface soil is restored to its former place. In all cases where the subsoil is naturally retentive, it would appear to be a needless expense to pave or cement it to prevent the loss of manure, however liberally it may be used; but on all pervious land, something should be done to avoid the washing away of the liquid food of agricultural plants, where one manures highly.

Mr. WILKINS has pipes leading from liquid manure tanks that convey the fertilizer to the underground conduits through which it is brought into contact with the rootlets of every plant under cultivation. The manure rises up to the surface of the tilled soil by capillary attraction. Care, of course, is taken not to have the liquid so strong as to injure any crop, and not to give the soil, which in truth lies in a tight basin, too much water for the healthy growth of plants. Mr. W. selected last season a piece of ground 100 feet square, which he had prepared on his patent principle, and by the side of it he had 100 feet square of the same kind of soil, which was treated on the old system. Both pieces were planted and sown alike, and he had advertised the day when the roots on both would be taken up, and invited the public to come and see and judge for themselves. The results were, as reported in the *London Agricultural Gazette*, that on the prepared land the mangel wurtzel grown was at the rate of 69 tons 2 quarters and 22 pounds to the acre; the Indian corn grown on it ripened and came to perfection, but not on the unprepared piece; the potatoes were taken up in eleven weeks, and when weighed in the presence of several gentlemen, were found to be more than double the weight of those grown on the unprepared land; the winter brockoli was taken up and eaten before winter came; and one of the cabbages weighed 16 pounds, although its stem remained in the ground, and had at the time of examination 15 young cabbages upon it. Mr. WILKINS exhibited some lucerne, which he said was the third cut, and contrasted it with the first of some grown on the old system. Remarkably fine specimens of flax and hemp were exhibited, grown by this new process. Only four inches of liquid was allowed to stand at any time at the bottom; and the soil above must be from twelve to eighteen inches.