

WHEAT AND CANADA THISTLES.

If the Canada Thistle should generally induce our farmers to cultivate their land better, its evil aspect would be greatly softened, though we should not dare to call it a blessing in disguise.

In years past we have frequently endeavoured to call the attention of cultivators to this subject; and have given some details of the facility with which this weed could be destroyed; but our last number contains two communications, which we think deserve some further notice; and we would hold them up for the encouragement of others.

"I commenced about the first of June," says our friend V. YEOMANS at page 114, "and ploughed them about once a month, and harrowed them as often—till about the first of October." The result is, *their entire destruction*, except a few places where the ploughing could not be well done."

'Not less favourable is the report of our correspondent AUGUSTUS D. AYERS at page 117. "The field contained six acres, principally occupied with Canada thistles, on which a Florida war had been waged for twenty-five years, or more, with little prospect of success or termination.—In the latter part of May, I broke it up—ploughed the ground deep four times, and harrowed as often in the heat of summer.—The result was [it] *killed the Canada thistles*, and my ground is in good condition for after cropping." In consequence of this superior culture, and high manuring, the crop of wheat which followed was very fine: and we are left to infer that nearly sixty bushels to the acre were obtained.

Two causes have conspired to make farmers slovenly, and to spread the Canada thistle: *One is*, the strong desire to raise all the wheat they can, by putting in as much of their land as possible; and *the other is*, the very short time they have to prepare the ground. Business in the growing season of this climate, hurries the farmer at every step. The getting in of spring crops is often greatly retarded by unfavourable weather, and sheep-shearing, road mending, and sometimes, continued rains, interfere with breaking up the fallow. Then comes the hoeing of corn, potatoes, and field-beets; and unless the farmer bestirs himself, hay-making will be on his heels. Harvesting the barley, wheat, and oats, is rarely finished before the middle of the last month of summer when many are beginning to sow their wheat—so near do seed time and harvest approach in this district. How then is manuring and ploughing the fallow once a month to be accomplished? Go over less ground—apply the same amount of labor to half the quantity of land—raise double crops to the acre (no weeds)—and reserve the remainder of the farm for pasture and meadow.

We now revert to another branch of our subject. Deep ploughing, or pulling up the thistles by hand, is far more destructive than to cut them off near the surface. In the latter case, the horizontal root with the upright stem attached to it, remains undisturbed; and the plant prepares to recover its foliage without delay. But when the plough breaks up the horizontal runner, or the harrow draws its fragments to the surface, it soon perishes in dry weather. There is a profit in taking the most thorough course.—*New Genesee Farmer.*

CORN COB FEED.—The best way to dispose of cobs is of course to grind them with the corn. But we observe two substitutes which have been successfully made use of. One is to soak the cobs in a half hoghead of brine, when the cattle eagerly thrust in their noses and devour them. The other, or better way, is to boil them. One farmer says, he would as soon throw away his fodder as his cobs.—*Id.*

PRESERVING CHEESE.—Solon Robinson, says a neighbour, has practised for several years the method of preserving his cheeses by placing them within a hay stack, where they are kept from freezing through winter.—*Id.*

By order of Government, the roads in Prussia are lined on each side with fruit trees. Noticing that some of them had a wisp of straw attached to them, I enquired of the coachman what it meant. He replied that the straw was intended as a notice to the public not to take fruit from those trees without special permission. "I fear," said I, "that such a notice in my country, would but be an invitation to attack them." "*Habens sie keins schelen?*" (Have you no schools?) was his significant rejoinder.—*Prof. Store.*

FATTENING ANIMALS.

There are some rules which may be advantageously adopted in feeding animals, which however obvious they may be, are too often passed over, or neglected. Some of these will be specified; and

1st. *The preparation of Food.*—This should be so prepared that its nutritive properties may be all made available to the use of the animal, and not only so, but appropriated with the least possible expenditure of muscular energy. The ox that is obliged to wander over an acre to get the food he should find on two or three square rods—the horse that is two or three hours eating the coarse food he would swallow in fifteen minutes if the grain was ground, or the hay cut as it should be—the sheep that spends hours in making its way into a turnip, when if it was sliced it would eat it in as many minutes—the pig that eats raw potatoes, or whole corn, when either cooked, could be eaten in our quarter of the time now used, may indeed fatten, but less rapidly than if their food was given them in a proper manner. All food should be given to a fattening animal in such a state, that as little time and labor as possible, on the part of the animal, shall be required in eating.

2nd. *The food should be in abundance.*—From the time the fattening process commences, until the animal is slaughtered, he should never be without food. Health and appetite are best promoted by change of food rather than by limiting the quantity. The animal that is stuffed and starved by turns, may have streaked meat, but it will be made too slowly for the pleasure or profit of the good farmer.

3rd. *The food should be given regularly.*—This is one of the most essential points in feeding animals. If given irregularly, the animal indeed consumes his food, but he soon acquires a restless disposition, is disturbed at every appearance of his feeder, and is never in that quiet state so necessary to the taking on of fat. It is surprising how readily any animal acquires habits of regularity in feeding, and how soon the influence of this is felt in the improvement of his condition. When at the regular hour, the pig has had his pudding, or the sheep its turnips, they compose themselves to rest, with the consciousness that their digestion is not to be unreasonably disturbed, or their quiet broken by unwonted invitation to eat.

4th. *The animal should not be needlessly intruded upon between the hours of feeding.*—All creatures fatten much faster in the dark than in the light, a fact only to be accounted for by their greater quiet. Some of those creatures that are the most irritable and impatient of restraint while feeding, such as turkeys and geese, are found to take on fat rapidly when confined in dark rooms, and only fed at stated hours by hand. There is no surer proof that a pig is doing well, than to see him eat his meal quickly and then retire to his bed, to sleep or cogitate until the hour of feeding returns. Animals while fattening should never be alarmed, never rapidly driven, never be fed at unreasonable hours, and above all things, never be allowed to want for food.—*Cultivator.*

GREASE OR SCRATCHES.—This is a disorder to which horses are subject, and only affects the skin of the heel. As there is much motion and tension to this part of the leg, it was necessary the skin should be very pliable and soft, and to ensure this, nature has provided a secretion of greasy matter which is absorbed by the skin at the heel, giving it a sensible greasy feel, and prevents in a healthy state the crack or roughness of the part which would otherwise ensue. Under ill treatment, or bad stable management, inflammation takes place, the secretion of grease is stopped, a dry and scurfy state of the skin succeeds, cracks of the skin show themselves, and swelling and lameness ensues. According to Youatt, "if cracks are slight, a lotion composed of a solution of two drams of blue vitriol, or four of alum in a pint of water will often speedily dry them up and close them. But if the cracks are deep and the lameness and inflammation considerable, poulticing will be necessary, and one of linseed meal, or of carrots boiled soft may be used. After the inflammation is checked, the heel may be dressed with an ointment composed of one part rosin and three of lard melted together, and one part of calamine powder added when these begin to get cold." Occasionally wetting the cracks with the vitriol solution will expedite the healing. Some farmers use an ointment made of grease and sulphur, which is rubbed in, the hair being first clipped. Sometimes from careless management, or inattention, the cracks degenerate into deep sores, fungus springs upon