

simple legend which is related of the well-provided travellers, who, while eating their full repast by the way-side, were accosted by a beggar, whose cravings were appeased by what they had rejected. The beggar's dog made a bountiful meal on the bones his master could not eat. The sparrows followed and fed themselves and young from the crumbs, and the ants then gleaned treasures for themselves and progeny. The story might have been continued by adding as many more successive banquets for the invisible creation which the microscope would have revealed.

Every farm should be supplied with a few of the hardier kind of sheep. They cost little for keep, require trifling attention, yet how much they administer to the wants of a house-hold. The warm clothing they furnish, how comfortable in the inclement season of the year, from the woollen cap and tippet, through all the under and outer garments, to the soft hose and health-preserving oversock. They cover our beds in the wintry nights, and they cover over our floors with carpets, which afford a warmth and luxury to our feet a sultan might envy. And how easily all these articles may be procured from a few choice fleeces? When not convenient for the house-wife or her family to manufacture them, they can be readily made into the different kinds of fabrics on shares, or exchanged for such as are already prepared; or they are ever a ready sale at fair remunerating prices. And how agreeably too, is the pork barrel eked out by the luscious, well-fed quarters of the mountain lamb, and the fresh meat of winter varied and prolonged by the stall-fatted mutton.

"It has been stated, and by our observation confirmed, that calves that run with sheep, are never infested with lice, and not liable to disorders, and this method of taking care of them is very convenient, as they may be kept in a yard with the sheep, separate from the other cattle, and watered in the morning before other cattle are turned out, which are liable to disturb or injure them. After the stronger cattle are housed early in the evening, the calves may again go to the water in peace and safety. When calves run with sheep, it may be well to tie them up a part of the time in the latter part of the winter or in the spring, else they will be more difficult to manage the second winter, if not accustomed to confinement and frequent hauling to tame them the first winter."—*American Agriculturist*.

FOURTEEN INQUIRIES.

The following inquiries from "J. A. S.," of Reading, embrace almost the whole circle of agriculture; and to answer them fully would require a volume, rather than the limited space we can give them.

"1. On light loamy land, inclining to sand, is it necessary to plough in the fall?"

We think not. Heavy clay soils are the ones most benefited by fall ploughing, as the frost aids in pulverizing such lands; a process not necessary in sandy ones. Fall ploughing is admissible on heavy retentive lands, or where worms, such as the grub or wire worm abound; as late fall ploughing aids materially in destroying these. In other cases, spring ploughing is best.

"2. Is it best to omit breaking up in the fall where you intend to plant corn or potatoes?"

If turf land, intended for such crops, is covered with long manure, and then carefully turned over in the fall, rolled down and harrowed, a top dressing of compost, and a thorough harrowing, is all that is necessary to fit it for seed in the spring, and a good crop may be expected.

"3. How will it do to break up, and stock down the same year with oats, turning the manure under the sod?"

Well. We have done this many times, with the exception that we have generally used barley or spring wheat instead of oats. Generally, however, when manure is applied to the soil, a crop of corn or roots should follow, and the seeding down take place the next year with spring grain.

"4. What will be the effect upon the land and crop?"

Good on both. The manure and the turf rotting will enrich the soil, while the crop will scarcely fail of being a good one.

"5. What manure is best adapted to such a course?"

Long barn-yard or stable manure is to be preferred. Compost manures are best applied to the surface, and only harrowed in; not turned under.

"6. What is the most speedy mode of rendering productive old meadows, impoverished by bad cultivation?"

Two modes may be adopted, either of which will be successful. If the land is fit for the plough, manure with barn-yard manure, invert the sod, and re-seed without cropping. If the plough cannot be used, manure the surface liberally with compost manure, scatter grass seeds on the land, and harrow until the surface earth is thoroughly stirred. It will give new life to the old roots, and establish the new ones.

"7. Does land 'leach,' or do the gases of the manure evaporate, or both? If the former, how prevented?"

Coarse, porous soils of gravel or sand undoubtedly leach, or allow the soluble parts of manures to sink with the water that passes off so quickly. In most soils, leaching can be prevented by the addition of clay, as that is strongly retentive of water, and holds that and the soluble salts for the use of plants. That the gases of manures pass off by evaporation, the nose gives conclusive testimony. Mixing such manures with earth, muck from swamps, &c., will prevent this loss.

"8. Is there any way to renovate old pastures that are so steep and rocky that they cannot be ploughed?"

None that we know of. Such pastures may be benefited by sowing upon them ashes and plaster. Renovation is scarcely possible without the use of the plough.

"9. What are the best grasses for permanent pasture?"

In this country, a mixture of Timothy, red top, or Herd's grass, orchard grass, and white and red clover, has been found the best for meadow or for pasture. On the best managed farms at the present time, permanent pastures are not admitted. The whole farm is made capable of producing any of the cultivated crops, and all parts are in turn subjected to tillage, meadow and pasture.

"10. What is the effect upon the soil, and succeeding crops, of cutting over a piece of wood land, and letting it lie three or four years without burning?"

In most districts, the effect would be to fill the land with weeds of all kinds; Canada and common thistles, bur weeds, johnswort, everlasting, &c. &c. The best way in our opinion is to clear the land and seed it, letting it lie until the roots are rotted so as to admit the plough.

"11. What is the comparative value of common barn-yard manure, and manure or compost composed of stable manure, swamp muck, &c.?"

We have used comparatively little compost manure in farming, preferring to apply the barn-yard and stable manures at once to the soil; but Haggerston, the manager of the celebrated Cushing farm at Watertown, Mass., says that a compost made of one-third manure and two-thirds muck, has never failed with him to produce better crops of all kinds of vegetables than clear manure; and for the last five years he has thought it wasteful to use manures without being mixed with muck. The compost manure which he uses for ploughed land is made of two-thirds muck and one-third manure.

"12. In the present depressed state of stock, is it as profitable to feed out hay on a farm where there are good resources for making manure, as to sell it for ten dollars a ton?"

The difficulty with farmers usually is, that when they have sold their hay for ten dollars a ton, they are both to pay out their dollars for manure; and the consequence is, their farms and crops go unmanured. It is doubtless, many times, better to sell hay and buy manure, than to feed it out; but the resources and the cost should be well calculated before a farmer allows the materials of manure to leave his farm.

"13. Is it not better to keep stock at the barn late in the spring, rather than permit them to feed down meadow land?"

Certainly. Farmers err much in allowing their cattle to run over their meadow lands or pastures before the ground is settled or the grass started. Animals should be fed at the barn till there is a pretty fair bite of grass, or they will fall away rapidly.

"14. Upon what soil do potatoes do best?"

Upon those that are moist, rather than dry, and abounding in vegetable matter or mold. A heavy, compact soil is unfit for potatoes, as the young tubers cannot find nutriment, or room for easy expansion in such earth. Compost is the best manure for