

Swede turnips which do not at this time completely cover the ground, should not be longer neglected if any description of weed remains among them,—or mildew, which will check their growth and prevent the enlargement of the ball, will certainly be the consequence.

A meeting of Delegates from the Agricultural Societies of Canada West, advertised to be holden in Hamilton on the 20th instant for the purpose of forming a Provincial Agricultural Association, was, we regret to say, very thinly attended,—only seven Districts out of the twenty of which the Province is formed, having sent members. We cannot, in this number of the *Newcastle Farmer*, make room for the proceedings of the meeting further than to publish the names of the officers appointed; but in the *Star & Gazette* will be found all the Resolutions passed, together with our remarks thereon.

To the Editor of the Newcastle Farmer.
GOOD AND BAD FARMING.

Sir,—The old adage, that "appearances are deceitful," is never more aptly verified than in farming operations, for although it is a fact, that a succession of good crops, is tolerable good evidence of the rule of a master spirit, a practical operator, still, the very reverse, occasionally, should by no means lead to the hasty conclusion, that a want of either scientific, or practical knowledge, is the cause of partial or even successive failures.

There are some extremely fortunate persons, who, from a combination of circumstances in their favor, have this season realised a crop of spring wheat, when there has been, as is very generally acknowledged on almost all sides of us even to the extremes of the Province, a decided failure in that crop. Oh, say these fortunate ones, the thing is easily accounted for, "where there is a good farmer, there is a good crop," if such be the fact, we are extremely sorry to observe, how very few good farmers there are in this and the adjoining townships, as there is scarcely one good field of spring wheat, to fifty with half a crop and less: and yet here have been practical farmers engaged from most of the counties of England and Scotland, and very many of them, men whose skill and industry have, by their former crops, been made very apparent; the grain in question has come in its usual rotation, according to their several views in the most approved manner, the operations have been perfectly well performed, and still, whether on a fallow, or after turnips, corn, peas, or potatoes, or on winter or spring ploughing, the result has been the same,—"a failure." The seed was, in most cases, well put into the ground, and in good season, the weather was favorable and propitious, the young blade exhibited a very healthy appearance up to a certain period, when from natural causes alone, the plant throughout the greater part of the Province, assumed simultaneously, a most unhealthy hue, and in most instances, suffered past recovery: we account the failure to have resulted, not from want of attention or skill, but from causes beyond the control of the most skillful agriculturist, quite as much as the rust itself; well may a celebrated writer observe "Agriculture, is a subject, which, viewed in all its branches and to their fullest extent, is not only the most important and the most difficult in rural economies, but in the circle of human arts and sciences," for after all that unwearied industry, and skilful management can effect, the agriculturist is still liable to suffer a total and it may be a ruinous loss by any atmospheric change which may occur.

Now although we have asserted the peculiar applicability of the old adage to farming operations in particular, still we must confess that there are appearances which indicate at once and afford certain evidence of good or bad farming,

but even here again, allowance must be made for illness or poverty, or many and severe misfortunes, arising from seasons, accidents or other circumstances.

Certainly, if we saw a farmer's fields continually foul, and overrun with weeds, which need nought but perseverance to destroy, if we invariably observe the operations performed in a slovenly and careless manner, which by the commonest attention to what is passing around might be easily remedied, if we see the continual recurrence of the same crop on the same land, without any attempt to restore to the soil, those substances necessary to supply that, of which the plant is continually draining it; if we notice all the stock of the farm turned on the meadows till the end of April, which said meadows are to be mown in June; if the stock, of whatever it may consist, is without sufficient shelter and attendance during our most inclement winters, and put on short allowance into the bargain, we should not for a moment hesitate to affirm such to be bad farming, and if on the opposite extreme, we see a vast expenditure and an aim at appearance only, however good the crops may be which may follow such an outlay, still in the long run it does not pay, whatever may be the amount of self gratulation or amusement which it may afford, it is still but bad farming.

We consider that it is essentially necessary to good farming, to possess some scientific knowledge, however acquired. Loudon justly remarks, "the recent discoveries in chemistry and physiology, have led to the most important improvements in the culture of plants, and the breeding and rearing of animals. Agriculture is, in consequence no longer an act of labor, merely, but of science, hence the advantage of scientific knowledge to agriculturists, and the susceptibility of the art of progressive advancement;" and with a little common sense, close observation, a willingness to receive information whether written or oral, an attention to the performance of every department of the operations, in a judicious manner, and in proper season, these combined with persevering industry can scarcely fail to result in good farming, even if it should not, sometimes from untoward circumstances, be so successful as might be desired, and it is most certain, the reverse of this practice can neither ensure, nor deserve success.

It must be allowed, that the foundation of good farming, must require a knowledge of the nature, and capabilities of the soil about to be brought under cultivation.

The soil is, so to speak, the raw material from which is to be procured an article for market, by the sale of which a remunerating profit is to be returned; it is therefore of the highest importance, to be fully aware of the suitability of the soil to furnish the various produce required, or the means whereby any soil, if deficient in any quality, may be artificially supplied with the needful ingredients for the end proposed.

It is at the same time as important to be conversant with the suitable adaptation of crops to any description of soil, in such a manner, and at such periods, as shall yield the greatest amount of profit in return for the labor bestowed. We would not however have it inferred, that the amount realised from one or two good crops, is any evidence of itself in favor of any particular mode of operation, for it may be that by extraordinary endeavours, the land may be pressed to its utmost, and sterility for some years after be the consequence, this would indeed be killing the goose which lays the golden eggs, in expectation of being suddenly enriched, and the worst results must ensue.

It is undeniable, that a succession of crops of grain, on the same soil, of whatever description it may be, must end in failure; some soils, from their very nature, and constituent parts being sooner exhausted than others, that is, they are deprived of the qualities essential for that particular plant, while, at the same time, they may and do retain, the ingredients needful for a crop of a different description; so, stiff, compact clays, however rich they may be made by animal manures, would soon, by repeated cropping, be incapable of producing wheat, by reason of the expansion of those silicious particles, also

lately necessary to form the straw of that grain, while a crop of peas might be produced, whose only danger would be their own luxuriance, tending more to haulm than pods.

It is evident, from both theory and experience, that change of crop is necessary, and that is the best farming, by which each successive crop is made remunerative, and at the same time is fitted by its nature and mode of culture, to serve as a preparative to the one next ensuing.

We would not be supposed to advocate change, merely for the sake of change, without science as a rule, and experience for a guide, for then, without answering any one good purpose, we should soon be in the predicament of the man who was well, wanted to be better, took physic, and died.

Again, the question of a market being distant or near, will necessarily have an influence, and must be taken into consideration in reference to the nature and extent of any particular crops to be raised; produce of some kinds, in the vicinity of large towns, which could be successfully grown, such as peas, (green) in the pod, potatoes, turnips, cabbages, &c. could not be thought of beyond the farmer's home consumption for house and cattle, with a market at a distance of 30 or 40 miles, for with such bulky articles, the cost of transport, would, in many instances, be equal to their value, taking into account the fact, that the season of demand would occur, either at the busiest time, or at that period of the year when the roads are at their very worst and almost impassable.

It is unquestionable, that the greatest amount raised per acre is realised by those, who supply the towns with vegetables, but it must be remembered, that a large amount of labour is required per acre, and that but comparatively few can be employed in that way, without glutting the market, as the supply would soon exceed the demand. But whatever mode is adopted; whatever system is pursued, in the department of agriculture, there can be no question, but that the thinking, diligent, and careful, must have a decided advantage over the careless, idle and thoughtless, and although "Tis not for mortals to command success, he is most likely to succeed who endeavours to deserve it," and we lay it down as a truism, that that is the best farming which remunerates, and he is the best farmer who makes it pay.

A NORTHERN FARMER
Hamilton, August 22nd, 1846.

To the Editor of the Newcastle Farmer.

Sir.—If the following experiment made to ascertain the proper time for cutting wheat be thought worthy of a place in your paper you are at liberty to publish it.

On the 11th of July I cut a handful of wheat, it was then beginning to turn a little yellow, and the grain was passing out of the dough state. On the 16th of July I cut another handful, the straw was then quite yellow, the heads quite erect, the grain still soft.

On the 22d of July, the time I commenced cutting the field, I took another handful, it was then fully ripe, the heads beginning to turn down, and the grain beginning to harden.

On the 1st of August, I took the three parcels and rubbed out the wheat, it was then sufficiently dry to grind, after cleaning it, I measured from each lot nearly a gill, very carefully; and then weighed them, the result was as follows:—

No. 1, weighed 1065 grains, sample inferior.
No. 2, do. 1123 do., sample very fair.
No. 3, do. 1145 do., sample about the same as No. 2.

Making a difference between the first and second cut of 6 per cent. and between the second and third of nearly 2 per cent. JOHN WADE.

Hamilton Gardens, Aug. 3d, 1846.

TOWNSHIP CLUB MEETING.

HAMILTON.—1st Saturday in September, at the Town Hall, in Cobourg, at 4 o'clock, P. M.—Subject for discussion,—Fall and Spring Ploughing.

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