

AGRICULTURAL.

[FOR THE BEE.]

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF
AGRICULTURE IN NOVA SCOTIA, AND THE
MEANS OF ITS IMPROVEMENT.

No. 7.

CROPS MOST SUITABLE FOR THE DIFFER-
ENT KINDS OF SOIL AND SITUATION.

MR. DAWSON,

Sir, The adaptation of crop to the different soils and situation of the farm ought to be attended to by every farmer: The want of care in this respect often occasions disappointment and loss. A field that will scarcely pay for seed and labour under wheat, might yield an excellent crop of barley or oats; although wheat, where it succeeds well, is perhaps the most profitable white crop that can be raised, yet it is very precarious in many cases, and I think barley might be substituted to advantage in its place, where it is apt to fail from rust, blight, or mildew. The soil and climate in general upon the lowlands of this country is congenial to the growth of wheat, but there are situations where it fails in which it is not easily accounted for; what is called the hull beside the village of Truro, is an instance of this; I have heard it imputed to a shrub, cultivated in a hedge there, taking the air with noxious vapours; I rather think it proceeds from the dense aqueous vapours passing and repassing betwixt the bay and the valley of the Salmon river; other places similarly situated are known to be affected in a similar way. Whatever may be the cause, it might be attended with profit in such situations to turn the attention to stock than raising grain, as I believe it does not affect either hay or pasture. I know one farm in an insular situation where wheat is often a failure, and oats sometimes, that produces excellent barley, perhaps rye might answer well, but I cannot speak from experience. In Poland, which is an excellent grain country, rye makes a great proportion of their crop. The highlands in general are not so favourable to the raising of wheat, the cold dews at night seem to have a baneful effect upon it; in this neighbourhood the farmers seem to be aware of this, and are now raising oats to great advantage. I have a hope that the time is not far distant when winter wheat will be raised to considerable extent; I gave it a trial last year upon a small scale, and it succeeded beyond my expectation, the grain was superior to what I sowed, which was from England; I have tried it again, and shall communicate the result, if favorable. The common field bean is another species of grain deserving a fair trial; I have raised a small extent of them for some years in succession, at the rate of eighty bushels to the acre; mixed with oats they are excellent food for horses, and ground into meal, I have little doubt would fatten swine well, and a third or fourth part bean flour mixed with wheat flour makes good wholesome bread, the straw of them are much relished by horses, and they thrive well upon it—they are shy about it at first, but when used to it they prefer it to hay; they may be raised in good strong soil in any situation. Peas may likewise be cultivated in most situations to advantage, a good strong dry soil is the most suitable for them.

Agriculturists generally classify the different kinds of crop into Culmiferous and Leguminous; I prefer saying white and green, being sooner done, and will be understood by most readers; white crops are those which have white straw and narrow leaves, and which are supposed to draw the most of their nourishment from the soil. Green crops are those having green straw or stalks and broad leaves, and are supposed to derive a considerable part of their nourishment from the air. As to grasses, timothy belongs to the first class, and clover to the last. In green crop we shall begin with the potatoe, and as most people are acquainted with their culture, I shall say nothing farther

than that a good dry soil, moderately rich, is the fittest for them. The same kind of soil suits turnips; carrots require good, deep, rich mould. Flax may be raised to advantage upon any low moist land;—if it is something cold it is the better. Where the soil is dry a great proportion of the seed for hay should be clover, and if moist, timothy.

Yours truly,

OLD RUSTICUS.

FRANCIS POSTS.—An excellent method of rendering these durable in the ground, is published in the American Eagle. It consists,—1, In peeling the posts, and in sawing and splitting them, if too large; 2, In stacking them up, under cover, at least one entire summer; and 3, In coating with hot tar, about three feet of the butt ends, which are to be inserted in the ground—after which they are ready for use. We have no doubt the advantages of this mode of preparation will more than remunerate for the labor and expense.—Our reasons for this belief are briefly as follows: The sap of all non-resinous trees, will ferment in the presence of heat and moisture, and cause the decay of the wood. To prevent this natural consequence, the first object should be, when a tree is felled to expel sap from the pores of the wood. This is done by peeling, splitting, sawing, or hewing, and exposing the wood to the drying influence of the sun, or at least the air. The process is facilitated too by immersing the wood in water for a time, which liquifies the sap, and favours its expulsion. And when the moisture has been expelled, the next object is to keep it out by paint, tar or charring. In the mode recommended above, the moisture is expelled by the peeling, sawing and summer drying, and its return is prevented by the coating of tar. The retention of the bark upon the timber is particularly prejudicial, not only in preventing evaporation, but affording shelter to various species of the borer, which, under its cover, carry on its depredations upon the timber. We have seen pine logs nearly destroyed in a summer by worms, where the bark had been left on, while those which had been peeled remained uninjured. The best timber is obtained from trees which have stood a summer or a year, after they have been girdled and peeled.—*Cultivator.*

EGGS.—The reason why hens do not lay eggs in the winter is because the earth is covered with snow so that they can find no gravel, or other calcareous matter to form the shells. If the bones of meat or poultry be pounded and given to them, either mixed with their food, or by itself, they will eat it greedily, and lay eggs as well as in warm weather. When hens are fed with oats, they lay better than when fed on any other grain.

[FOR THE BEE.]

MR. EDITOR,

In the communications, which in relation, to the temperance question, I have already sent you, I stated some particulars, in which I conceive both the friends and enemies of the cause, to be under mistake. There is only one additional circumstance, which, on this part of the subject, I would beg leave to notice. There is no want of evidence, that temperance Societies have done, and are still doing, much good. This, all who take a candid and dispassionate view of the case, must allow. Not a few who formerly were worse than useless to themselves and to society, have been reformed. They account it a happy day, when they commented relinquishing what had nearly proved their utter ruin. Many indulge in much more limited extent than before—ardent spirits not appearing now on their tables once for fifty times, in which they were presented on former occasions. Pernicious example has in proportion been diminished; a strong feeling, which tells powerfully on practice, in favor

of temperance, has gone abroad; and is daily increasing in vigour. As formerly there was scarcely any social connection—meeting of strangers, acquaintances, or friends—business, however trifling, transacted, without ardent spirits; as these seemed to be essential to almost all kinds of common intercourse (indicating a most vitiated state of public feeling), so now, multitudes can meet, transact the most important business, while the absence of the former essential is never felt. These things are undeniable, and plead with mighty force in behalf of temperance. By some accordingly they are viewed as decisive of the question.

Without deducting any part of the weight which legitimately belongs to such views, nay, while I readily admit, that these rise very high in the scale of evidence in behalf of temperance, still I presume, that some of the friends of the system, fixing their attention on these considerations only, have drawn conclusions from them more sweeping than the premises will justify. So often as they do this, they weaken their own cause. The substance of their argument is this: "Temperance Societies have done, and are still effecting much good, therefore they must be right." But is it quite accurate without farther proof, or availing ourselves of the light which other sources supply, to come to an inference so unqualified? Against reasoning of this description, a dexterous adversary will hurl troublesome weapons. It is not sufficient to show, by an appeal even to undeniable facts, that Temperance Societies have effected much reformation, are therefore of beneficial tendency, and operate strongly as a means of preventing inebriety. In order to make good the position, that they are right throughout, considerations must be adduced which apply to the principles on which they are founded, as well as to their palpable and acknowledged issues. It is chiefly from the latter however, that the friends of the system have hitherto been accustomed to draw their conclusions; but it would require to be shown, that the former, viz. the principles on which Societies rest, are, at least, not wrong, since it is evident, that many measures in themselves vicious, actually become the occasion, nay are productive, of much that is beneficial. Who can doubt that it is of incalculably greater advantage to the world, that the territory of the United States should be under the control of its present occupants, than still in the hands of the Aborigines? But will this superior benefit justify all the steps which have been adopted to drive the red man from the hunting grounds of his fathers, to make way for others of fairer colour, and farther advanced in civilization? In no case are we to do evil that good may come. I am far from maintaining that temperance societies, while productive of much good, are objectionable in principle; what I assert is, that the friends of the cause are not warranted, reasoning from mere consequences, to draw conclusions of so unlimited a nature as they frequently do. To such partial views and inadvertencies, I therefore object.

On the other hand; while most of the opposers of the system admit, that it has done, and is still doing good, they maintain, at the same time, that (in other respects it must be of course) it is not good, nay, that it is positively faulty. But it must be plain to any person who has carefully examined what they have written on the subject, that this is either mere assertion, or that what they adduce in the shape of argument, is unsound. They have as yet completely failed in proving, that the principle of temperance societies is objectionable. To some of their pleas I have already adverted, and have shown that they are quite fallacious. The pretence, that there is an attempt to substitute temperance in place of religion will not serve their cause; nor does the circumstance, that not a few members of the societies in question violate their pledge, afford them stronger support. These effect not in the slightest degree the real merits of the case. What then is the difference between the two