

machinery and new farming implements; in a word, anything relating to the general economy of the farm, must be at all times acceptable to our agricultural population.

Would it not be expedient to establish periodical markets and fairs in some of the most populous places of the Province, for purposes of business both in stock and grain? In connection with these, Farmers' Clubs might be readily formed for the discussion of agricultural questions.

It is scarcely necessary to add, that whatever amount of information might be thus collected, in order to produce the greatest benefit, it should be disseminated through the length and breadth of the country, by means of the press.

If these hasty remarks be considered of any importance, you are at perfect liberty to make what use of them you think proper.

With best wishes for the advancement of our colonial agriculture—a cause in which men of all parties may cordially unite for the promotion of their country's welfare,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, very truly,

Toronto, Sept. 26, 1848.

GEO. BUCKLAND.

*To the Editor of the Agriculturist.*

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—It so happened, that in my youthful days my father's farm lay where the road from Niagara leading to Hamilton intersected another, which made travellers often stop to inquire which of the roads to take for a named place. They never halted to inquire whether we were classical scholars or not, but appeared to be satisfied to have the road pointed out that would lead them to their place of destination. Now, Sir, it frequently happens that farmers arrive at cross-roads, while following their occupation; and I believe your useful paper should be the finger-board, to direct us. The information required cannot at all times be expected from you; and I, for one, would be glad to have such enquiries as Mr. Dennison makes, in No. 12 of your paper, answered in any style that the persons who have the experience may please to communicate it in. I, for one, have had my share of loss, caused by wire-worms; and still I can say but little from experience about them. If, in my homely way, I can say anything that you think might be useful, you have it; if not, you will pardon me for trespassing on your time and patience.

1st. They have never injured clover for me; nor have I ever heard of them doing it for others.

2nd. They do not injure Buck Wheat; and it is said it will expel them.

3rd. I have never seen many of them on clover sod; and Fall ploughing is said to be death to them.

From the above observations, I would recommend Mr. Dennison to plough his ground this Fall, and again next Spring. Sow it with Buck Wheat, and harrow it well; then sow it with clover seeds, and pass the seed harrows over it again, which will ensure the clover seed to grow. He will then have a crop of buck wheat next year; the year after a crop of clover, for hay; then, after allowing the second crop of clover to get pretty well up, plough it nicely, and sow it with wheat, and he may have reasonable expectations of a good crop of wheat the year after.

Your subscriber,

P. GREGORY.

Vine Cottage, Louth, 11th September, 1848.

*To the Editor of the Agriculturist.*

MR. EDITOR.—Mr. A. Stevens' Essay on the Canada Thistle comes near the truth; but the particular destroying remedy he has not discovered. In strong and stumpy land his remedy will check them; but fire, salt, and manure will make them grow more healthy. Seeding will put them back when the thistle has not too strong a hold, if mowed yearly; but if in pasture land, the thistle will overpower the grass. The thistle seed, the first year in taking, grows only one root; the second year that root forms a T, and runs half a foot or a foot, near the surface of the land,

forming joints, and each joint produces a thistle, or more; and so continues to spread by root and seed, if not mowed. By a close examination, it will be found that some of the roots run down into the earth to a great depth, as they can find their way; and the root will be so small that it can hardly be seen with the naked eye, and it will have joints, like other roots. I have burnt large log heaps on thick beds of thistles: they only grew the better. I have seen a well dug in thick beds: thistles soon sprung up on the top earth. I have had them covered thick with manure for a number of years, and when the manure was removed the thistles sprung up. I might greatly enlarge; but as I do not intend giving my name or place of residence, I will not trouble you with a long letter; but, if published, leave it to those, after trying the experiment, that are more able to write, and will come to the point at once. Unless there can be some way to rot the root, it will only retard the growth of the thistle. The thistle dies yearly, and is supported by young shoots for next year. If you bury it up, the roots only grow, and it will remain for years, making slow progress; but if you plough the land that is free from stumps, and not many stones, seven times in the course of a summer, in a common dry season, it will rot the roots, and destroy them. Every time after ploughing, harrow the land, and let the ground be ploughed clean—I mean one furrow cut clean to the other. After ploughing and harrowing, in about a week go over the ground every day, try in many places, two or three inches under the soil, and see if the young shoots have started; and if they have, plough and harrow again; but do not suffer one shoot to get the air until it is cut from the main body; and so continue until they are entirely destroyed. After the third ploughing, you will find less every time you plough. I would recommend ploughing heavy sward land in the Fall; and in the middle of May or the 1st of June it will be rotten; and that is about the time to plough the thistles for the first time. I will give my reasons for the success of this plan. There is a greater growth above ground than there is under ground, and when the upper part is cut off, the force of the root extends, to form new plants; and by continued forcing, if they cannot get the air, the root will run out its substance, and rot; or by a continual cutting, once every day, two or three inches underground, will also destroy them; but this is a long and tedious operation, and if they are neglected a few days the roots will get strength from the top. If some industrious man will surround a small patch of thistles, and spade it up, and take off the roots and tops, and then carefully examine it every day (except the Sabbath and heavy rainy days), and spade up the young shoots that start, he will find in eight or ten weeks that my remarks are just, and the roots beginning to rot. That is the way I came by the secret; and after your land is cleared, by observing what I said before, about the first year's growth, you can easily keep your land clear. My neighbours see my land clear; but there can be no inducement offered to get them to undertake to destroy the thistle in theirs: and if some able writer should try my plan, though poorly described, and find it a remedy, they could enlarge upon it, and it might be the means of being beneficial to every one that is annoyed with Canada thistles.

Mr. Editor, I shall pay the postage on this; and you can correct and publish it, or throw it under the table, as you choose.

AN OLD FARMER.

BEST FOOD FOR FOWLS.—By experiments lately made on a farm at Neuchâtel, in Switzerland, it is proved that fowls to which a portion of chalk is given with their food, lay eggs the shells of which are remarkable for their whiteness. Some hens fed upon barley, would not lay well, and tore of each other's feathers. The barley was then mixed with some feathers chopped up, which the hens ate and digested freely. By adding milk to their food they began to lay, and ceased plucking each other's feathers.