

tle to stand year after year upon a leaky floor with nothing under to absorb the moisture, which is consequently a total loss.

To remedy this great loss of manure should engage the careful attention of the farmer. Upon interval farms there is a necessity of having the floors high up from the ground to avoid a freshet, but then care should be taken to have something placed under to absorb the moisture.

But on upland farms a regular and profitable system should always be pursued and might be to certain profit. All stands for cattle should be quite level and just long enough for the cattle to stand on. For ordinary sized Cows four feet two inches from the stanchion back is quite sufficient. The gutter should then be six or seven inches lower, about three feet wide, and as tight as possible. By adopting this method, my cows have been kept dry and clean as cattle running in pasture, and have been stabled winter and summer. The upland barn should have the stable floors laid upon the ground, and so firmly bed in the clay that no air should pass under. The gutter laid with descent, leading the liquid into a vat stored with proper absorbents for making manure, and the dung heap should also be covered with a shed.

I have found by placing two ordinary sized barns at a convenient distance from each other—12 or 15 feet—it is an easy matter to enclose the space between, so as to make it appear like one long barn. The lower part of the space then serves for a pit to hold the manure of two stables, extending each across the barn, while the upper part serves for stowing hay, and a door opening into the space from the yard, serves to back in the cart for the manure. This is a method I have tried with good effect, and can confidently recommend it from experience. In building barns with the stable floors on the ground, it is necessary that the sills, instead of being framed together in the usual way at the front corners, should enter with a strong tenon to the posts, which should also rest their ends on a flat stone upon the ground, while the barn floor for carting in the hay should be two or more feet high, leaving the scaffold above the cattle about four feet above the barn floor, which makes a material difference and relief in pitching up the hay.

In my outset, I anticipated some wandering, and now I find myself barn building in the midst of preparing manure; but to return, I can assure the farmer the more and oftener the compost heap is turned over and mixed, the more benefit may be derived from it, providing, however, there is a sufficient mixture of other substances to prevent the ætiform gasses from escaping.

Lime is an excellent ingredient in the compost heap, but I have always found it too expensive. Deposits in or near rivers or creeks, table land at the foot of a large hill or mountain, deposits from brooks, which frequently settle in the ditch by the highway, and turf or swamp mud of any kind, should always be sought after as opportunity may afford, and be highly valued by farmers. I know cases where stable manure is hauled ten miles with profit, but the distance of hauling fossil and vegetable matter for the compost seldom need to exceed half a mile, and is frequently within twenty rods.

Having taken a general outline of the management of the compost heap, I will next consider the preparation of the field for receiving it and applying it with good effect.

And here I would first observe the necessity of having first the field well drained; for if the rain-

water stands in puddles on the field, neither manure nor culture will perfect the crop. Draining may generally be effected by ploughing the land in ridges, or making a head land drain, but great care should be taken in hilly ground that the ridges should run obliquely down the hill, lest too great a rapid in the time of heavy rain should cut away the soil and make deep gullies.

It sometimes happens, and particularly in flat, level situations, that fields cannot well be drained without digging deep through a ridge—a great expense. But when this is the case, it generally answers well to go into the lowest part of the field in dry season, and there dig a large deep hole, and take away the mud for the compost heap. From all other parts of the field, let the drains head to this pit in the centre, and it will be found that in open space, one rod square; in one dry day the water that would be taken away by evaporation would keep two acres of land wet for a week, by laying concealed from the rays of the sun, under the sod. Besides, it is frequently the case, and more particularly in alluvial soils, that by digging three or four feet, we come to a strata of such loose open material, that the water filters away, and may be seen oozing out of a distant bank. In one particular case, I remember to have employed a man in digging a ditch four feet deep in a low flat swamp, while the weather was dry—before it was finished, there came a rain and filled it brim full, I viewed it next day, and found that at about the depth of 15 inches, the water had leaked away, but below that it remained for more than a week. But I must conclude for the present, as I find I am trespassing too much on my time, which is always precious to

A FARMER.

*(To be continued in next No.)*

**SOWING AND PLANTING.**—In most cases we obtain as good crops without early planting. Corn, potatoes, beets, carrots, parsnips, pumpkins, squashes, melons, cucumbers, beans, and most vegetable crops, do better by delaying planting till the ground is warm and dry, and the weather is generally warm, as cold weather and severe storms, check, and in some cases destroy tender plants. Most of these crops succeed better if they be planted from the middle to the last of May, though it is generally best to get corn in by the 20th of May, as it requires the whole of a common season, to become well ripened. In cases of early planting the ground becomes heavy and hard from severe storms, and the plants become stunted, while the weeds which are hardy, are getting possession of the land, and can be expelled only with much cost and trouble.

But some things require early attention.—Spring wheat, rye, oats and barley should be sown as soon as the ground becomes dry enough to work; as in this case there is a much better chance for a good crop. Warm, muggy weather, is more likely to cause a failure in late sown grains, than that which is sown early. Last season the drought cut off late sown oats and barley, and those sown late are generally more liable to injury from this cause.

Peas do best when planted early; and they are so hardy that cold will not injure them. When sown late they are liable to injury from rust and mildew. Onions should be sown quite early, else they will not ripen well unless the season be favorable. The tomato and some other vegetables should be sown early, else they will not generally ripen well in our climate; and for early use many kinds should be planted as soon as the ground is dry.