

mately or more effectually foster the interests of agriculture and advance the general prosperity of the country, than by encouraging the production of those articles for exportation which would without doubt be profitable, but which from their peculiar character will never be produced spontaneously. The manufacture of oil-cake for example requires expensive machinery, and a simultaneousness of action on the part of a considerable number of farmers in the cultivation of the raw material which will never take place, unless Agricultural Societies, or the Legislature take the first step. It must be set a going by some instrumentality which has sufficient knowledge and means to undertake the experiment. If wheat is turning out to be a precarious crop 't is high time to look around for something to make up the deficiency in our exports to the foreign market. We invite the *serious* consideration of our Legislature to this subject. It will be a more profitable employment than either maddening with the relations of "Master and Servant," or tinkering the laws of Dover or Libel.

To the Editors of the Canada Farmer.

Peterboro', 14th June, 1847.

GENTLEMEN.—A subscriber to your Journal having placed some numbers of it in my hands, I cannot refrain from expressing to you my approbation, humble as it is, of your laudable undertaking; affording a prospect, if encouraged, of powerful aid in starting up this infant country to manhood in the noble art of cultivating the soil. This country, so preeminently capable of supplying the deficiencies of the mother country, has hitherto limited its exports to timber and ashes, with some wheat and flour (very sparingly) and peas; and large as is our field of production, not even all of these have been set down as available ones to obtain cash. Your are of course fully aware there are others which might be added, and it is with much pleasure I observe you have such able correspondents as the English Farmer of Clark to assist you in pointing out the best to begin with; my remarks I can therefore make, may almost seem superfluous, and will, at all events, require a little *top-dressing* (as you offer) to fit them for a proper appearance in your columns. Who can refuse to contribute their mite under such circumstances!

The cultivation of linseed, for conversion into oil and oil-cake, has long taken a strong hold of my attention, and I certainly mean to give it a fair trial so soon as circumstances will permit. I consider it of the first importance, not only to enable us to raise our calves and save our butter and cheese, the next in importance for export, but to produce wool of a very different quality from that which we have at present brought to market in so poor a state and in such overwhelming quantity, that it is almost as a drug unfit for use and frequently a positive waste. Now, had we linseed, it would go far to remedy this, as by judicious use of it to the cows during winter, and especially before calving, an ample supply of milk would follow for either the purpose of making butter or raising the calf.

But my purpose, when I took up the pen, was merely to strengthen, if possible, the encouragement to raise linseed for the sake of the oil and oil-cake as prominent articles of export; and as I observe your remarks, and those of your correspondents, chiefly relate to their finding a ready market in some Districts of England, I am induced, as a native of Scotland, (from which country, as well as England, I lately returned from a visit,) to corroborate in the strongest degree the reasons you and your sensible correspondent advance for the production of the article referred to.

I was asked at Edinburgh by the merchants who import largely oil-cake from the Baltic Ports, "why don't you send that article from Canada?" We buy it by thousands of tons—our Lothian farmers cannot get on without it." I am well acquainted in the Lothians; and there I found a substantial testimony throughout as to its value and general use, the production of the finest beef—fit for the London and Edinburgh markets. But another thing struck me as a great inducement, viz., its convenience as an article for shipment; requiring neither barrels nor bags, and not easily damaged, if at all, by salt-water; in fact, I believe the salt-water would make it still more palatable to the cattle. This is an important matter when you take into view that timber ships chiefly trade to the St. Lawrence, and though they are quite unsuitable for the transport of wheat and flour, they would do very well for the oil-cake; and, for years to come, until the

trade reached an extensive scale, would readily take so much oil-cake as a part of their cargo. Above all, the demand at home, I have no doubt, would justify its being considered at Montreal a cash article. Assuming, therefore, the climate and soil suitable, cash for the article produced, I conceive, ought to crown the argument. For who does not want cash in this country? Those who bring it with them are like to be devoured for it, and, if not very careful, it will soon be swallowed up or slip out of their hands into the hands of the workmen they employ; who generally make good their point to have cash while it lasts from an old-countryman. He may have laid out all or nearly all his capital upon a cleared farm, trusting to a return of cash from the produce. Wheat alone procures it, and a moderate crop is exhausted in the payment of two or three men, leaving the proprietor and capitalist in a very uncomfortable state. Much has to be done to remedy this. The prosperity of the farmer who has capital, and the comfort of the labourers who may come amongst us, should go hand in hand; the farmer ought to be in a position to supplant some of the lawyers and other useless non-producers, by whom this fertile country, its cultivators and men of capital who have been its main stay, are at present ruled.

All should have a fair field for advancement, and it is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when our plank and rail-roads will materially advance the interests of the farmer; and those who are employed upon a farm will be content to take their pay in the necessities of life derived from it, as in the old-country they are so paid where cash is so abundant.

In another letter I may be induced, if agreeable to you, to describe more particularly the system.

I long to see the farmer better and more profitably employed, and the business at the Court House very much abridged. At present every farmer in a District must go to the Court house; a stray pig, a goose, or a gooseberry case has to be tried, or perhaps he is sued for half-a-dollar. The lawyer to be sure is thus fed, but the poor farmer returns home with empty pockets to a neglected farm. In return for all this, such is the litigious spirit abroad, he is not displeased, for he may have been addressed as a "Gentleman of the Jury," and who knows, says his wife, but that may be a prelude to your being a Justice, a Squire! I hope these would-be gentlemen may be brought to reflect that the mud requires cultivation as well as the farm. Let them look to the old country in both respects. It would be well if our new fledged farmers would strive to avoid litigation about every trifle. It is a sad drain on their resources—quite the reverse of *draining* their land, a process which would ameliorate the climate and enable them to produce that which will bring in the cash. I hope your paper will be instrumental in the attainment of these desirable objects.

I fear I have trespassed in the length of this letter, but you may *prune it* and I shall be obliged. Send me a copy of your paper for transmission to Scotland, which may draw from those very near, the fountain-head of farming, something more worthy of insertion. I am, Gentlemen, Respectfully yours, A SCOTCHMAN.

\* One of the Editors of this journal, who lived in the rural districts of England 22 years, never heard of such a practice.

ROTATION OF CROPS.

There is a saying in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, on the banks of the Lehigh, a very aged man, whose success in farming upon a system of rotation, by which, he could obtain the greatest possible yield of wheat in a given term of years, has caused it to be generally adopted in that fertile region. It is called Shenner's system after the discoverer, Jacob Shenner who I had the curiosity to visit at his most substantial homestead some years ago, and from whom I obtained the following account:—

When a young man with a large family of children growing up around him, and dependent on him for support, he plainly perceived that under the rude practice then existing, he would not be able to maintain them. He had thought over his difficulties while following his plough, and at length, determined upon his plan; which followed up without faltering, has conducted him in the decline of life to ease and affluence.

When I saw him he had resigned the active duties of his farm to his son, who was following in his footsteps; after having himself practiced his system of rotation for thirty-five years with a constant improvement in the quality of his land; which indeed had the unmistakable stamp of fertility upon it.

The farm contained one hundred acres, which was divided as nearly as possible into 8 fields of twelve and a half acres; each of which was carried through an eight year's rotation.

- Commencing with a fallow field, he
- 1st year, Manured and tined; ploughed three times, in May, June, and August; harrowed and seeds one bushel and three pecks per acre of wheat, which was ploughed under.
- 2nd. Clover seed sown on wheat in the spring, six quarts to the acre, which was pastured after harvest.
- 3rd. Plastered clover in the spring, one bushel per acre; cut in June, and ploughed under second crop, and seeded again with wheat.
- 4th. Wheat—same as No. 2.
- 5th. Pastured early in the season, ploughed under second crop in August, and sowed wheat.
- 6th. Wheat again, and rye sowed on stubbles.
- 7th. Sowed clover seed in the spring on rye.
- 8th. Ploughed under the clover sod and planted corn; and next season recommenced.

It will be observed that there were every year three fls. in wheat, one with rye, one with corn, two with clover, and one fallow. The produce had one season reached as high as 1,400 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of corn, and three hundred bushels of rye.—[Boston Cultivator.

From Mrs. Child's Frugal "Housewife."

ITEMS OF DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

If you have a greater quantity of cheeses in the house than is likely to be soon used, cover them carefully with paper, fastened on with flour paste, so as to exclude the air. In this way they may be kept free from insects for years. They should be kept in a dry cool place.

Pack sweet June butter in a clean scalded firkin, cover it with strong brine, and spread a cloth all over the top, and it will keep good until the Jews get into Grand Isle. If you happen to have a bit of saltpetre dissolve it with the brine. Dairy women say that butter comes more readily, and has a peculiar hardness and sweetness, if the cream is scalded and strained before it is used. The cream should stand down in a cellar over night, after being scalded, that it may cool.

About the last of May, or first of June, the little millers which lay moth-eggs begin to appear. Therefore brush all your wollens, and pack them away in a dark place covered with lichen. Pepper, red-cedar chips, tobacco,—indeed, and almost any strong spicy smell,—is good to keep moths out of your chests and drawers. But nothing is so good as camphor. Sprinkle your wollens with camphorated spirits, and scatter pieces of camphor gum among them, and you will never be troubled with moths.

It is thought to be a preventive to the unhealthy influence of cucumbers to cut the slices very thin, and drop each one into cold water as you cut it. A few minutes in the water takes out a large portion of the slimy matter, so injurious to health. They should be eaten with high seasoning.

Lime pulverized, sifted through course muslin, and stirred up tolerably thick in white of eggs, make a strong cement for glass or china. Plaster of Paris is still better. It should be stirred up by the spoonful, as it is wanted.

Honey may be separated from the comb, by placing it in the hot sun, or before a fire, with two or three sieves, each finer than the other, under it.

In Canada, they cut the skin of potatoes all off, and put them in pans, to be cooked over a stove, by steam. Those who have eaten them, say they are mealy and white, looking like large snow-balls when brought upon the table. Potatoes boiled mashed while hot, are good to use in making short-cakes and puddings; they save flour, and less shortening is necessary.

When green peas have become old and yellow, they may be made tender and green by sprinkling in a pinch or two of pearlsh, while they are boiling. Pearlsh has the same effect upon all summer vegetables, rendered tough by being too old. If your well water is very hard, it is always an advantage to use a little pearlsh in cooking.

Put in no green vegetables until the water boils, if you would keep all their sweetness.

ON INVERTING POSTS.

Mr. Editor.—It is firmly believed by many that posts, when set in the earth, should be inverted. The reason assigned in support of this belief, is that they will thereby be much more durable. If it be really true that the same posts simply by being set with the top downwards, will last considerable longer, it is certainly of great moment that the fact becomes well and generally known. In order

to convince the public mind that such is the case, accounts of several experiments have already been promulgated, all of which, so far as I have seen or heard, concur in support of this conviction. Notwithstanding, the number seems to me sufficiently large to compel all reasonable doubts to give way under their accumulated weight, still I will venture to give publicity to an additional experiment, tried by a gentleman who is now a resident of this township. In a conversation with him a few days since he informed me that some twenty years ago, when residing in the town of Ashfield, Mass., he set a couple of gate posts, both of which were taken from the butt of a chestnut tree, which was perfectly sound. One of them was, and the other was not inverted. At the expiration of twenty years, both were taken up, when he found that of the one inverted, only the alburnum or sappy part was decayed while the other had nearly rotted off.—[ib.

The durability of oak may be known from the fact that the throne of Edward the Confessor is 800 years old; one of the oaken coronation chairs has been in its present situation in Westminster Abbey, about 540 years, and the oldest wooden bridge of which we have any account is of oak; it is that famous for its defence by Horatius Coles, and which existed 400 years before Christ.

CANADA THISTLES.

J. B., of Oneonta, N. Y. gives us his mode of destroying Canada thistles. He says:—"Salt them—use salt freely, and your cattle and horses will gnaw and stamp them to death. If some thistles appear the second year, repeat the process, knowing that the salt is not wasted if a little is trodden under foot of men or of beasts."

EXPORTATION OF APPLES.

Elihu Burritt urges the attention of the people of Maine to the raising of apples for the foreign market, stating that apples which in Maine are made into cider, or fed to hogs, will command a dollar a bushel in England; the cost of sending them he estimates at twenty cents per bushel.

A bad husband may make a good father, but a bad wife will never make a good mother.

TEST FOR COPPER IN FOOD OR CONFECTIONERY.—Pour over the substance to be tested a small quantity of liquid ammonia (hartshorn water) and if copper be present it will speedily acquire a bluish tint.

The following little piece from Punch is too good to be lost. It exhibits both extremes. The man who has left the counter to turn farmer, and who talks a great deal about science, and sneers at the blockheads who have been farmers all their lives, will find some plain truths very plainly expressed, and the more practical man who despises all "book-larnin'" will see his folly and stand-still principles in the line "gust to do what his father afore him had done."

From the London Punch.

A COUNTRY CAROL.

I'm a true English Farmer—no, that's not the word. We don't mention it now, 'tis a name never heard. No such people as farmers in these times there be—Agriculturists now, man, is what they calls we. Folks are growing Far too knowing, Much too fast for a fellow like me.

Our calling itself is no longer the same, It has got a new nature as well as new name; We must all study science, we husbandmen, now, And can need be a scold to follow the plough. Sent to college, Crammed with knowledge, Taught the wherefore, the why, and the how.

Time was when the farmer had no rule but one; Just to do what his fathers afore him had done. The new-fangled inventions we n'w take in hand, I, for one, must confess that I don't understand. Weeds restraining, Ditching, draining, Subsoil ploughing, all over the land.

I remember the time when the stable would yield Whatsoever was needful to fatten a field; But chymistry now into tillage we logs, And we drenches the earth with a parcel of drugs; Makes each fallow Physic as allan— All we poison, I hope, is the slugs.

For! when I was a youngster, who thought, to be sure Of guano, or gypsum, to use for manure? Of acids and salts from the blue-bottle shops— Where we soon shall be going for tinctures and drops. Draughts and potions, Washes, lotions, Pills and powders to doctor the crops.

Well there, to myself I says often, says I, Things will come round again, I've no doubt, by-and-by And your wisecracks sud, after all's said and done, That the old plan of farming, my larks, is the one; Drop reliance On their science, Only lab'ring where they begun.