

## FARMING NEAR THE SEA SHORE.

The soil on the seaboard of most countries is inferior to that of the inland districts; but the former possesses a great advantage in the means of procuring manures. Seaweeds of every kind will when first applied produce large crops fit for the food of animals who will furnish a more permanent manure, sea mud in very small quantities has nearly the same effect as seaweed; and where it abounds it is found useful for a considerable time, when applied in large quantities to sand or gravel, but for this purpose it is allowed to lay in heaps for a year or two, during which it is frequently turned, to deprive it of the greater part of its salt. Upon the harbours on the seaboard illnesses spring up, and wherever men are crowded together abundance of manure is formed which must be removed to the fields and applied to its proper use if the inhabitants would preserve their health; for experience has always proved that they who live near to accumulations of filth in towns are exposed to more than a double portion of fevers and scrofulous complaints at all times, and to most dreadful mortality when any pestilential disease passes through the country. In Flanders no small proportion of the food of the inhabitants is raised by means of the manure collected in the towns, and when the Cholera passed through Europe, the scourge fell but lightly on their large cities, where a most scrupulous cleanliness is observed, and every substance that will serve for manure is carefully preserved and removed to the fields; and where by this management, they support a much greater number of people in proportion to the land they occupy than most of the neighbouring nations; and support them much more comfortably.

The offal of fish is a powerful manure, but like the seaweeds it should be used with caution, never applying it in large quantities, nor to the same ground for several years in succession, but as great crops of hay and potatoes can be raised with it, which will serve to feed animals who make a more permanent manure, it is always possible to make land very rich where a considerable quantity of it can be procured.

Upon seashores where the water does not freeze in winter sheep are kept without much hay, and in some places they are kept well without feeding them at all; where they can always find abundance of kelp, and some marshy ground near the sea covered with florin grass, the creeping runners of which do not die in winter.

There are so many means of enriching the soil to be found near the sea, that a very poor soil there often becomes of far greater value than very rich land in the interior, and now, if ever, cultivation ought to be pushed to the utmost, when millions who have been employed in manufacturing goods which find no market, are suffering for want of food. The earth, if carefully cultivated will never defraud the labourer of his hire.

"A penny saved is better than a penny earned," said the old woman. Many an old man has said something more foolish. Why are those baskets standing there in the rain with an inch of mud in the bottom? Why, we had them digging early potatoes, and as we shall have to dig more to-morrow we thought we might as well let them stand. And so by the time the late potatoes are fit to dig the bottoms will be so rotten that they will burst out, and then you must spend half a day to cut rods and make a basket, or pay fifteen or eighteen pence, to somebody to make one for you. Now, if you would wash them when you have done using them, and put them under cover, and dry them when there comes a fair day, they would last till they were worn out, and you would find that you had saved as much by half an hour's work, as you could earn by half a day's work. Here are these rakes which ought not to be left out in the

rain; the teeth will swell by soaking with water, and of course pressing hard upon them come, make the holes bigger, and the teeth smaller, and when they come to dry again the teeth will be loose and require wedging; but this labour had been saved by putting the rakes in the barn when they were dry. The handles of the hoes and pickaxes too will be loosened by being wet and will cost labour to fasten them, which had been saved by putting them under cover. The plough there too, will not be wanted this six weeks, if she have the earth scraped off and be put out of the weather, for if left exposed all summer, the tenons will get rotten, and it will break before it is half worn. But what is the use of being so wonderful careful about such trifles? I'll tell you what is the use, I know I have not reckoned up half of what we lose by negligence out of doors. If the old woman was here herself, she could tell better than I can what we lose that way in the house; but I certainly put it low enough, by estimating the losses at six pence a day the year through. Now six pence a-day is something like £9 6d. a year. You know that when the people came about to-day begging for the lame man, we had not a sixpence in the house but had we saved this £9 2s. 6d. which we had earned and lost by negligence, we might have given them a dollar and have had enough left to buy the best cow in the neighbourhood. In old times there were seven wise men, and some person thought proper to collect and preserve a short precept of each of them, but I doubt if any of them is such a useful, every-day piece of wisdom, applicable to all kinds of work, as this of the old woman, and if any body wish to tack the sayings of the seven wise women to the sagend Dictionary, I would propose that her name, if it can be discerned, should stand first, and opposite to it, "a penny saved is better than a penny earned."



SUBSOIL PLOUGH.

There are many tracts of land which have been enriched by cultivation to the depth of five or six inches, where they rest upon hard bottom, which roots will not penetrate, and consequently the crop is generally suffering with either too much or too little moisture. Such land is not uncommon on soils abounding in gypsum. There are soils resting on clay or tenacious "hard pan," which after draining with a great number of covered drains, still continue cold and unfruitful, the impervious subsoil not only retaining the water almost every where except directly over the drains, but also allowing the vitriolic water from beneath to ascend and destroy the fertility of the land. On such soils the subsoil plough has greatly increased the produce. It loosens the layer directly beneath the part which is cultivated without raising it to the surface, and through this layer the superfluous water will find its way to the drains, while the vitriolic water from below will not pass it, because it is open to permit capillary attraction to operate. It is always of importance to vegetation that air should readily reach the roots. When a hollow is filled with stones and then covered with a foot of good soil, it almost always makes a very fertile patch, compared to the average of the field.

Smith's subsoil plough is extremely heavy, requiring a team of great strength, but the American plough here represented is much lighter, yet has been found capable of doing the work, and cannot have no doubt, be made by some of our own mechanics.