

Fall, with very good effect. Doubtless large portions of our country might be thus greatly and perhaps permanently improved by the use of such manure, thus laying in immenso quantities just beneath the surface; but there may be other soils, not only useless but actually detrimental,—hence the necessity of discrimination and care. I shall always be very happy, when convenient, to offer any suggestions which may appear beneficial to the practical Farmer; but at this busy season of the year I must decline any "discussions" with an "Ex-Farmer," as I consider my time will be far more profitably occupied between the *plough handles*, than entering into any petulant and unnecessary controversy through the medium of an Agricultural publication. At the same time I do not "eschew scientific investigations," by any means. There are a thousand reasons why the laws of nature should be carefully studied, and as carefully obeyed by our whole rural population.

It is important that the Farmer should acquaint himself as thoroughly as possible with the natural laws which constitute the basis of the art by which he obtains his livelihood; and the more his practice is made to conform to these unerring laws, the greater will be his success; the readiest, and indeed almost the only medium of acquiring this information, is agricultural papers; they present to every farmer a medium for conversing with the most intelligent and successful of those engaged in the same occupation, in all parts of the country. The views of all may be obtained, compared, examined, and modified to suit the particular circumstances of each individual,—an opportunity which is almost equivalent to making a personal visit to each correspondent.

Yours &c.,

A CAVAN FARMER.

We are obliged to our Correspondent for his sensible and acceptable communication, but we find he is under a mistake in supposing that we were advocating the most pernicious system of taking two grain crops in succession,—a practice which has already been most detrimental to the Farmer's true interests.—Our proposition was to cut the oats in their green state, long before arriving at maturity, and consequently not taking any thing from the soil to the injury of a succeeding crop, while by thickly shading the ground weeds would be subdued, and the stubble left after the scythe being in a succulent state, would form a regular and beneficial manure, thus, instead of exhausting, renovating the soil.

We hope our correspondent will find time, in the intervals of his occupation between the "plough handles," to continue to favour us with the results of his agricultural experience.—ED. N. F.

To the Editor of the Newcastle Farmer.

Sir,—I have accidentally had an opportunity of perusing lately Nos. 7 and 10 of your *Newcastle Farmer*; and I assure you the perusal of them has yielded me much pleasure, and not a little information, on that most interesting and all-important subject, Husbandry.

It is a branch of industry, which, at one period of my life, and before coming to this continent, I prosecuted, both practically and theoretically, with animated sedulity. I am, therefore, naturally disposed to view with much approbation and complacency, your zealous and intelligent labours in the good cause; and in order to do what is in my power to convince you that I wish you every encouragement and success in your beneficent undertaking, I submit to you a few facts and hints, suggested by reading the above numbers of your *Newcastle Farmer*,—some of the fruits of a ten years' experience as a Scotch farmer.

In No. 10, p. 78, I observe a foot-note, stating the writers' (I presume your own) plan of protecting turnip-seed from the ravages of the fly. It reminds me of "old times," and is so near akin to my own method that I beg to lay it before you, and, if you please, also before your readers, somewhat in detail. Here it is.

I always (except, of course, when I wished to try any newly imported variety,) raised my own turnip seed; and taking for my motto, "Tis more prudent, and much easier, to keep well what is well than to make well," I caused it to be separated from the parent stalks, as soon as it would possibly thrash out. Attention to this I considered a matter of the highest importance, because it removed it out of the reach of its multifarious enemies, before they had power to do it any injury. I then had it dried—sun-dried, or otherwise,—as quickly as possible, cleaned it perfectly, and turned into it a quantity of best flour of sulphur; after which I immediately filled it into bags of a convenient size, which were hung up in the driest part of the kitchen.

Now, Mr. Editor, I can safely aver, that from the day on which I adopted this practice, my turnip crops, however arid and unpropitious the season might have been, never sustained any perceptible injury from the fly. And I will venture to add that turnip, or any other similar seed, treated and stored as I have described, will continue perfectly wholesome for any length of years.

The value of my practice was repeatedly and remarkably demonstrated by this,—that whilst almost every parcel of seed which I bought, generated the fly, my own home-raised, whether sown in my own or my neighbours' field, remained perfectly unaffected by it. You will now perceive that my whole process was based upon your hypothesis, (which I am persuaded is really the fact,) that "the extremely minute larvae of the insect are deposited with the seed."

A word on another subject.—Assume

that an intelligent system of rotatory cropping is pursued, and it is a standing proverb among the best Scotch farmers, "Study to get your land to yield rich crops of grass, and you will then assuredly get abundant crops of any kind of grain from it."

And on another.—It was not only my own practice, but also that of my neighbours, when applying fresh or "green" byre-dung to a field, to allow something less than one-half the quantity that was laid on of old, manufactured manure; because experience had taught us, that this would produce equal results on the field. After all, I am quite satisfied, that one kind of dung suits a given soil better than another; and also, that in different soils, the same kind of crop will answer better with different kinds of manure. A due attention to these truths, which I hold to be indisputable, would very much narrow the grounds of controversy as to the superiority of fermented and unfermented, &c. &c.

Excuse this hastily drawn up and desultory paper, and I may hereafter, perhaps, send you something more leisurely and compactly jointed.

Yours very sincerely,  
ABREDONENSIS.

Cavan, 15th May, 1847.

[We shall be most happy to give a place to the future contributions of our Correspondent.—ED.]

From the Cobourg Star.

#### THE POTATO INSECT.

This insect has made its appearance here, and as insects are by far the most numerous of all animated nature, the minuteness of some makes them easily overlooked, the agility of others renders the catching of them difficult, so that all the research of man has only extended to about 11,000 species; these are to be found in the Linnean system of Nature. It is thought by Naturalists there may exist many more not yet described; I am not certain whether this insect is known or not, but certainly it belongs to the family of Chrysomella, division Oleraceae, of the Linnean system, smaller than the turnip fly, black, and on the slightest alarm jumps where it cannot be seen. It pierces the leaf in holes,—cuts the nerves and kills the plant; there are 270 species natives of Europe, belonging to this family, destructive of different plants. The potato fly likes all plants having its flower like the potato,—the turnip fly likes all the cross shaped flowers, as the radish, the turnip, the cabbage, &c. Is the study of Entomology of any use? What is to be done, to destroy or counteract its effect? if no remedy is applied, 3 or 4 weeks will decide the fate of the crop. I would suggest that plaster, ashes, or lime be sparingly thrown over the plants attacked, in the evening, or after rain, in all cases, by so doing, we are feeding the plants, and the dust that may collect on the leaves will hinder the insect, and if any animal matter exist in the soil, by using lime ammoniacal gas is generated, which no insect likes.

S. H.

Cobourg, 1st June, 1847.

FOR SEA SICKNESS.—Take as much cayenne paper as you can rightly bear in a basin of hot soup, and all sickness and nausea will disappear.

Published by H. JONES RUTTEN, at "The Cobourg Star" Office.