

## DISTILLERY SLOPE.

MR. EDITOR:—A distillery in this place is now giving away four hundred barrels of slop daily. Some farmers make four trips a day, including part of the night, carrying off nearly eight barrels at a time. During the day this slop is taken as fast as it is discharged from the still; but the vats becoming filled at night, the earliest customers have the improvidence to draw off and waste the slop down to within a foot of the bottom of the vat, taking away only the thick sediment composed mostly of the bran of the corn and shells of the oats; just as though this carbonaceous matter was more nutritive than the oil and protien compounds they have wasted with the more liquid parts of the slop. Is it any wonder that such farmers have short crops, and are now glad to come all distances under twelve miles, thus to avail themselves of a distiller's bounty? Such men are very likely to prefer the long-exposed carbonaceous mass of the farm-yard manure to its liquid or more strongly arotised constituents; hence, instead of making and saving manure to induce a crop, they depend on the chances of a favorable season; and as a general thing, I find there are few good farmers among the great number who never fail to excuse their short crops by a gird at the season. S. W.

WATERLOO, N. Y.

## MY NEIGHBOR'S CABBAGES.

MR. EDITOR:—Last season my own garden suffered very much from drouth; and though my plants were watered often and thoroughly, still they were tough, stringy, and but half the usual size; while, on the contrary, my neighbor's plants were uncommonly thrifty, and vigorous in growth.

There must be a reason for this difference, and I must study it out. The first two years of his sojourn in my vicinity, my neighbor (a genuine son of the Emerald Isle), not being over fastidious as to the looks of his yard and lot, kept a number of hogs, giving them full range of his premises—and good use they made of their noses in rooting up the ground in all directions. To be sure, the premises were not particularly neat and cleanly, and now and then one's foot would give tangible and satisfactory evidence that the tenants of the yard were not particular in their habits!

Finding that to buy feed for his porkers was money out of pocket, he concluded to put his lot to a different use. The manure made in previous years was scattered about the premises, and deeply spaded in.

His plants were set out the 20th of June, and thoroughly cultivated.

The result was, that while the gardens of many were parched from drouth, my neighbor's plants seemed to grow as if water was of no account to them. In the fall, scarce a plant but had a good solid head; while in a lot next adjoining, but about one-third of the plants headed at all, and those even were not marketable.

Now, though I do not approve of keeping swine in city lots for the purpose of preparing grounds for cabbages, their are some points in their culture that one may notice. First, all plants of the cabbage tribe are gross feeders. The ground can hardly be made too rich, or spaded to deeply.

As soon as the leaves have put forth, begin your hoeing, and be sure to hoe them once a week at least, and oftener if you have time.

The cut-worm is a great annoyance on such soils. The plants will be found eaten off by hundreds at the surface of the ground, and your work of transplanting must be done again.

On page 206 of the *GENESEE FARMER* for 1854, a correspondent states that after having lost all but five out of two hundred and forty sweet potato plants, he set out five hundred cabbage plants, and one thousand sweet potato plants, with a hickory leaf round each, and not a single plant had been destroyed since. The leaf should be a half or three quarters of an inch below the top of the ground.

## GOPHERS.

MR. EDITOR:—Noticing in a late number of the *FARMER* a request that some of your correspondents would give you some information as to the means of preventing the ravages of these vermin, I would say that death, and nothing short of it, will do the business. This I have fully tested in the Sacramento Valley. The amount of dirt that a few gophers will bring to the surface of the ground is astonishing. They work early and late. I failed to poison them, but was gratified in finding that powder and shot would finish them. Level down their mounds and tread down their roads; they will at once commence rebuilding them. At the first approach of light in the morning, or at dusk in the evening, advance with great caution—as a common walk, when you are some rods off, will cause them to stop labor—and as they discharge their loads of dirt, do the same with your powder and shot. Continue to level both mound and gopher, and the victory will be yours.

BLACKWOODTOWN, N. J.

IRA BRADSHAW.