

ture, excluding the Welland, by a strong dike, upon which he erected a town, and rendering these stagnant fens gardens of Eden. The example of this spirited cultivator was followed by the inhabitants of several neighboring villages who, by common resolution, divided their marshes among them, when some converting them to tillage, some reserving them for meadow, others, leaving them in pasture, found a rich soil for every purpose. Still the culture of arable lands continued very imperfect. Fleta remarks in the Reign of Edward I. or II., that unless an acre yielded more *than six bushels of corn*, the farmer would be a loser, and the land yield no rent.

We are after all very much in the dark respecting the state and progress of Agriculture previous to the 14th century, but in the latter end of the 15th, it became cultivated as a science, and very rapidly improved. At this time, Fitzherbert (a Judge of the Common Pleas) distinguished himself in practical husbandry; he studied the nature of soils and the laws of vegetation with philosophical attention—composed a theory and confirmed it by experiments—rendered the study agreeable as useful, and contributed to the honour and advantage of his country, by increasing the sum of knowledge and kindling the spirit of emulation and enquiry in reference to this most important Art.

During the civil wars, the labours of the husbandman were temporarily checked, yet several valuable writers flourished, and the art received encouragement. Sir Hugh Platt brought into use many new kinds of manure—among which we notice salt, fullage of streets in cities, dunghills made in lairs, fern, hair, calcination of vegetables, ashes, urine, &c. &c.

Gilbert Plattes, too, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, did signal service by his writing, for which he was ungratefully rewarded by being suffered to perish of hunger in the streets of London, and die without a shirt on his back. The greater number of the esculent vegetables now in use, were introduced in the Reign of this Princess.

Hartlib, the friend of Milton, received from Cromwell £100 a year to reward his valuable efforts in the cause of Agriculture. In his time the art was carried to very considerable perfection for the expences of the preceding wars had compelled the *country gentlemen to become industrious*. At the restoration, however, this industry was lost in neglect and dissipation, and husbandry again fell into neglect.

In consequence of having a heavy job of work on hand, which we could not well delay, we had to postpone the publication of this number of the *Manual* for a week beyond the time it would otherwise have made its appearance. Our endeavour shall be to avoid an occurrence of the kind in future.

**WHEAT CROP.**—It is said the prospects of a bountiful Wheat harvest throughout the Province, was never better than that presented during the present season, but within a few days past it has been discovered that the Weevil has got into the heads of the grain, and eaten nearly the whole of it.

The information we have been enabled to gather is, that there can scarcely be a field of wheat found in all the country above Fredericton, as also in many places on the Nashwank and Miramichi rivers, but what is entirely destroyed, at least so far as respects the grain, and that the farmers are now cutting it down for the use of their cattle.

We have heard of a method by which the Weevil may be destroyed, and the grain protected from injury, and are credibly informed that it has proved effectual in saving the crop in some instances. It is, while the grain is heading, and during the time it is in milk, to mix Tar and Brimstone together, and set fire to it, and then before sun rise, for a few mornings, pass along on the windward side of the grain so, as to allow the smoke to settle upon it while it is wet with dew.

This is but a simple method to accomplish a great purpose, and as the expence is very trifling it should not be forgotten at another season.

**POTATOES.**—In many of the gardens and fields in the town and neighbourhood, the Potatoes are completely eaten by vermin, the stalks bearing the appearance of having been struck with heavy frost. There is no certainty as to what the cause may be, but it is attributed to a continuance of wet weather. If any person can give a reason for the failure of the potato crop in these instances, and inform us how a similar occurrence may be prevented in future, we will publish it for the good of all concerned.

(For the Farmer's Manual.)

## LETTERS OF "A FARMER."

### LETTER X.

Having lately seen an article on the subject of cutting Grass in which the writer approves of cutting "it when in full bloom," I beg leave to differ with him for the following reasons, viz: 1.—When the grass is in full bloom, or, as we term it, in blossom, it is growing and increasing in bulk and quantity faster than at any other period. 2.—Grass cut in blossom, shrinks in curing, and produces a much less quantity of hay; and 3.—To cut the grass in blossom injures the root more than to cut it at any other season, and this consequently injures the meadow for the ensuing year.

Having ascertained long since that the greatest strength of the soil was required to mature the wheat crop, and that grain when cut in blossom does not impoverish the soil any more than the green crops do, I applied the same philosophy to grass, and cut it in blossom to prevent deterioration of the soil, but my own and other's experience have taught me that it is best to let the grass and seed have its full growth before cutting, but not to allow it to become so ripe as to fall off.

It is well worthy of remark that cattle are seldom known to eat the blossoms of clover and some other grasses, and we frequently see a short pasture white with clover blossoms; but as soon as the seed ripens it is devoured greedily, and thus the seed is abundantly scattered through all ranges of pasture. Whether this circumstance arises from a disrelish to the taste of the flower, or from the circumstance of its being generally occupied by a little offen-