

have more confidence in a professional man, my experience, such as it is, is at his service.

Presuming, therefore, that the plan I propose I have personally tried and found to answer, I begin. In the first place, as to grinding and preparing the clay,—for which purpose a pug-mill, made of a hollow button-wood log, or, in the absence of this stout plank will be found speediest and most effectual. For the admixture of hay or straw, I found the longest and finest the best; I used red top; prairie-grass might be still better. As to size, this of course must be a matter of taste; those I made were 18 inches, by 9 inches and 6 inches thick, and, when dry, were heavy enough to lift with comfort. To mix the hay with the clay—Place your wheelbarrow under the mouth of the mill, and, as the clay runs into it, sprinkle in also the hay, from time to time, as you see fit, until it is full. It is then wheeled off to the yard, and the clay from it, with a spade, thrown into the mould and pressed down with the foot until the mould is full in every part; the superabundance is then struck off with a straight edge, and carefully lifting up the model (which has neither bottom nor top) a brick will be made, so that one in fifty will not be lost by fracture in drying, if the yard is kept well sanded. Plaster will adhere to a wall built of these as well as to any other material. Two men and a boy will make 100 of these bricks in a day, one man to feed the mill and wheel the barrow to the other, who moulds them.

To your querist, or any other of your readers who might be inclined to adopt this material for building, I would suggest, that, though this mode of using it is good and cheap, there is another, equally good and infinitely cheaper, as old, I believe, as the hills, called the *Pisé* mode. It has also this advantage over the other, that any earth almost will answer for the purpose that is not pure sand or vegetable matter. The plan consists in ramming the earth between two boards, properly secured and adjusted on the wall, which, when filled, admits of being removed and adjusted again at pleasure. To descend to particulars would, I fear, occupy too much of your time, while it is also unnecessary, inasmuch as the whole process, describing soil, tools, &c., are fully set forth in *Rees's Encyclopedia* in the clearest manner. I may, however, state, that I am now residing in a house built on this plan, a story and a half high, and 35 by 26, which answers admirably. The walls, 18 inches thick, were carried 9 feet high in a week, being the short days in November, by three men, though the material had to

be carted from some distance. It is indispensable that the foundation be kept dry; but with a concrete wall, 8 inches or a foot above the surface of the ground, it would last as long as the foundation itself, with or without plaster, and granite would do no more. There can be no doubt but that this is the quickest and cheapest mode of building, and well adapted for all rural dwellings, root and ice-houses, garden walls, &c. In the case of open walls, the top would have to be covered by boards or clap-boards projecting two or three inches over them.

To go from building to ploughing. I have been shown a plough, by a neighbour lately from England, for ploughing in a sod, which, I think, worth notice. It consists in skinning the top to the depth of two or three inches, and, by shifting the clevis, and following again in the same furrow, throws five or six inches more of the sub-soil on the top of it. As soon as the first furrow is opened, the thin sod falls completely upside down into the bottom of it, and is, on the return of the plough, as effectually buried as could be done with the spade. Several lands might be kept going at once, so as to shift the clevis as seldom as possible, though the most obvious method would be to have two teams. In ploughing a single furrow, especially on a red top sod, the grass not only springs up between the furrows, but through them, and a hoeing crop is quite out of the question. On the double furrow plan I here propose, you will never see a green blade of the sod again, and can cultivate potatoes, corn, or other heavy crops to advantage. No doubt the method is known to, and practised by, many, yet, as I have never seen it mentioned in your paper, it is also possible that it may never have occurred to several of your readers.

With sincere good wishes for the prosperity of your paper

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. JONES.

Our Correspondent will see in the excellent address of Mr. Christie, Pres. Pro. Association, at Oubourg, a plan recommended very similar to his, but more economical. It is to use the Michigan Double Mould Plough.