

land. Those who settled on their grants seldom made them available for any purpose excepting that of obtaining credit, which, with their pensions, enabled them to live in that dissipated style which was far more congenial to their aristocratic notions than profitable to the neighbouring peasantry. From this and other circumstances the rage for many hundred or thousand acres became established, and large tracts were engrossed, which continues still uncultivated, a perfect nuisance in their neighbourhood. The practice of large grants for the purpose of cutting off the timber, has helped to confirm and continue the fashion.

In travelling through settlements in the interior I have often observed that when one man had twenty acres of his two hundred improved fit for the plough, after twenty years residence on it, more had fallen short of that quantity, and some had found their tracts a great incumbrance and expense, which had finally caused their failure. Extending a little labor over a large field is always attended with a small return or a total loss.

Some farmers have purchased farms with the hope of making the price of them by their crops, but they have too often estimated that part which brings no income too highly.—If they say the buildings and 50 acres cleared is worth £500, and the 500 acres of forest is worth £500 more, they may be sure of falling in the rear. If a farmer thinks to erect elegant buildings and pay for them in the surplus produce of his farm, he may find, when too late, that building diverts his attention from Agriculture, and elegant houses add to the imaginary wants of his family, require elegant furniture, and numerous expenses unless economy and method is the order of the day. Hurry and disappointment will ensue.

It is a convenient and reasonable thing for every farmer to have a wood lot and common attached to the farm, when it does not cost him too much, but when he purchases by the acre let him purchase no more than he can occupy to advantage.

Agriculture, as I have before observed, having been in many cases, a mere secondary consideration in this Province, a very careless and bad practice has been adopted by our forefathers, and the tenacity with which it is adhered to by their children is proverbial; and a want of foresight, a want of a little capital to take advantage of present opportunities is every where apparent.

One admits that his crop has failed from his having sown bad seed, for he had not money to purchase better; another has lost his meat or a few tons of hay 'by the wet, for he was out of money to buy a few bushels of salt to save them. One has sowed foul seed with his wheat, because he had not a sieve to cleanse it with; and he has thereby ruined his field and crop, a very common occurrence. And many regret that they sold their pork last fall for two pence per pound, for they see now if they had barrelled it up it would now have been worth five pence. Six or eight men will toil hard in raking hay all the afternoon, while their neighbor on the next farm will rake with his horse more than all of them, while the extra hands are carting it into the barn. But the matter is easily excused, "It is a busy season, and we have not time to step over the fence and see how the Horse Rake works, and indeed we have none, and our father never heard of one, but he always made out to get his hay raked."

But the prejudices of education, although strong are not always the worst. Many have framed and matured prejudices arising out of their own neglect and bad management, and fall far short of the vigi-

lance and enterprise of their fathers. Of such, however, there is little hope of their reforming.

From this sad picture of bad management I would fain turn away and invite the attention to some of my countrymen who have acquired a handsome independence by farming, and also to many European farmers among the emigrants of the last 25 years, who have settled among us and rented land until they have become able to purchase, and are now in comfortable and respectable circumstances, a credit to their native country and a good example to be followed by their neighbours in the land of their adoption. All which plainly proves the capabilities of the Soil and Climate of New Brunswick, and the facilities for turning them to good account.

A FARMER.

LETTER III.

For the Farmer to keep his fields constantly in good order, so as to raise every year a good crop is the greatest art of Agriculture; but experience has proved that it is attainable, and the great secret lies chiefly in a proper care, preparation and application of manure.

Manures are of various kinds: but as this is a Stock country, abounding in extensive natural pastures, and plenty of hay, I shall chiefly confine my remarks to the Manure of Stock farms.

All manures undergo a certain degree of fermentation before they unite with the soil in forwarding vegetation. While this process of fermentation is in operation great care should be taken to have the mass so mixed and surrounded with vegetable and fossil matter, that all the æriform gasses should be completely absorbed and retained. Excrementitious manure may be placed in the earth in such a state as to afford no nourishment to the crop, but after it has become thoroughly composted, its strength remains in the earth for many years. Although it is not indispensably necessary that every farmer should have a thorough knowledge of chemistry, still that knowledge would be exceedingly useful to him in the management of his compost heap, and he would thereby clearly perceive the great loss sustained by the ordinary practice of farmers exposing the naked heaps of excrementitious manure in the open air. To describe the different combinations and vital properties of those gases which escape by such exposure would exceed my limits, and probably be less interesting than a few practical remarks, the result of observation and experience.

Excrementitious manure that has been well loused has been found much stronger than that of any other kind; but when exposed for one summer in the open air or for four or five months, it loses half its quantity and much more of its virtue. But when mixed with an equal quantity of peat earth, swamp mud as it is sometimes termed—or fossil and vegetable substances, its quantity is doubled, and all its virtues are retained. Manure carried to a distant field for convenience in the winter, or in the autumn, should always be covered with the clay of the field as soon as possible. This practice I have followed for several years, and have invariably found that I had saved all the manure covered improved its quality, while all the soil which I had placed on it, had also become good manure. I have also recommended it to some who have tried it with the same good effect. Another great loss in the manure is the liquid which escapes from the stable, which has been found capable of decomposing more fossil and vegetable matter than the excrement, and yet it is astonishing to see the carelessness of many farmers in allowing their cat-