

Sowing Corn for Fodder.

Notwithstanding the many suggestions we have given on this subject, we have frequent inquiries as to the best mode of culture and management; and we also discover, in passing through the country, a great deal of ignorance in relation to the raising and keeping the crop.

The first principle requisite is to sow in drills instead of broadcast. The latter is the most common mode, but it requires more seed per acre for an equal product, and never leaves the ground clean—weeds having a fair chance to grow without being destroyed by the cultivator. Sowing in drills allows the passage of a horse, causing a better growth of the stalks, and leaving a smooth, clear surface between the rows. No hoeing is necessary, the shading of the crop in the dense drills smothering down the weeds.

A common mistake is to sow too small a quantity of seed. Planted thinly in the drills, the stalks grow taller, and lead many to suppose that the crop is therefore heavier. A careful trial by weighing has shown this supposition to be a mistake. The stalks in the thick drills, although shorter and less in size, more than make up the difference in weight by their greater number, and the fodder being finer and softer, is of more value, and is wholly eaten by cattle.

We once tried the experiment of dropping grains of twenty to the foot in one furrow, and forty to the foot in another. A casual observer would have said at once, on seeing the crop, that the thinly sowed drill yielded the most, the stalks being considerably taller; but on cutting and weighing, the product of the thick growth weighed one-half more than the other, with the same length in the row.

Corn fodder is well adapted to subduing rough or weedy land, and it may be sown after the common corn crop is planted. The best way for rough land is to first plow and harrow, and then furrow out with a plow, about three or three and a half feet apart. Take a half bushel basket of shelled corn on the left arm, and, walking along beside the furrow at the usual gait, strew or scatter the corn with the right hand, so as to use about two and a half bushels per acre—which will be at the rate of about 30 or 40 grains to the foot, if common northern corn is used. Then harrow the whole surface with a two-horse harrow lengthwise with the furrows, which will cover the whole, and the planting will be completed. If the soil is mellow, a one-horse cultivator will cover the seed as well, but a two-horse harrow will do it with greater expedition. In some cases it may be better to run the harrow across the furrows; but this practice has the disadvantage of requiring the whole field to be first sown. This treatment is adapted, as before remarked, to rough land, extreme cases requiring a little more harrowing to cover the seed. On mellow surfaces the seed may be put in, without the trouble of furrowing or covering with a harrow, by means of seed drills drawn by a horse—a special slide being provided for discharging the corn rapidly. A two-horse wheat drill might perhaps be modified so as to do the work still better—taking two rows at a time by removing the other tubes, or even three rows, if the drill is large enough.

No hoeing is required, the weeds being quickly smothered out by the dense spreading crop, if enough seed has been sown, and the ground is in fair order as regards fertility. Cultivating several times, from the period that the young corn is only a few inches high until too large for the passage of the horse, would undoubtedly add to the growth, and leave a more perfectly clean surface after the removal of the crop; but in some instances, where we have been unable to pass the cultivator more than once, the field has been left quite clean.

It makes very little difference what kind of corn is used. We have not tried the large Southern sorts, which would perhaps require a greater amount of seed to reduce the stalks sufficiently. Sweet corn is said to make excellent fodder, but the crop is smaller and the seed more expensive. Sorghum does well, but very thick planting will not answer so well, as the smaller stalks are crowded under, and the larger assume entire possession. This crop, when freshly cut in autumn, is eaten with great avidity by cattle—the only disadvantage being that its sweetness gives them a disrelish for other food. By cutting up the stalks after they have become partly dried early in winter, they have been eaten freely by cows with a good effect. These were cut by horse power, which ground or mashed the stalks while cutting them. Unless this is done, they would be too hard, if not cut very short—say the fourth or sixth of an inch.

A difficulty has always occurred in storing corn fodder raised in this way. Novices are always sure to spoil the first crop by heating in the stack. The stalks are so much smaller, that the mass settles more compactly, and allows less ventilation than the common and coarser corn fodder. Even after it has been dried some weeks in the shock, and the leaves appear to contain no moisture whatever, there is enough

juice in the stalks to cause total ruin by fermentation when built in a stack of ordinary size. Different means may be used to prevent this disaster. A convenient one is to make large shocks, well constructed and erect, in the field, and to draw them in winter, as required. Another is to build very small stacks. A third is to place three rails in the centre of the stack to form a ventilating chimney for the escape of the hot air. A fourth is to place the fodder in thin layers in different parts of the barns and sheds. The first-named method, which is often the best, requires that the corn be either cut by hand, or by a scythe, so as to throw the tops in one direction, and then to bind in bundles. Osiers, which every farmer should raise for the purpose, are excellent for binding. For the other modes it may be cut with a mowing machine, and gathered, when partly dry, with a steel-tooth rake.

Corn fodder, sown thick enough to prevent the formation of ears, does not exhaust land, but rather enriches it. We raised four successive crops on a piece of land of medium fertility, and each was larger than its predecessor. The roots left in the soil added more than was taken away in the stalks. The result would no doubt be different when ears are borne on more thinly grown plants.

We extract the above from the *Cult. & Coun. Gent.* The quantity of seed spoken of is rather less than we find recommended by our dairy men, who sow from three to four bushels per acre.

Our future men should be taken care of. [We cannot begin too early to interest them in what is for their good, making men of them in this way and preparing them for the business of life. In training an animal, whether for the pork barrel or the traces, we begin early. How much more with an intelligent being should we begin when there is a susceptibility for this susceptibility will be made use of by the child himself if the parent does not employ it; it is only a matter of choice which of the two shall have the direction. But begin early; that is the first thing. The second is, get up interest. The third—but there is no third. Interest a child, almost an infant, and you leave no chance for other interest or evil to take root. Then develop the good qualities of the child. Thus a boy will be a man before the usual time, but he must be encouraged. The father must deny himself often of fits of temper in thus treating his child. Will he do it? Generally not.—*Country Gent.*]

North Carolina.

Mr. Christopher Leffer, of this township, and Mr. Robt. Lutes, of Boston, who lately started for North Carolina, have returned, bringing rather discouraging accounts from that region of country. The land there, which was reported as fertile and productive, they found to be bleak, destitute of herbage, and fit only for the production of an inferior quality of cotton. The pine also is short, scraggy, and far inferior to that of either the Northern States or Canada. The negroes are very numerous, and as a consequence the wages of common laborers are



DOUBLE HOLLYHOCK.

Encourage the Boys.

Make the boy master of his work; the sooner you can do this the better. What he wants most of all things is encouragement. If you can secure this you are safe, for then you get up interest—the grand basis of all success.

If the boy is permitted to plan and carry out for himself—with perhaps sly hints as aids from his father—he becomes occupied, and thoughts of play and mischief are out of his head. He is now doing the work of a man—what boys are always wanting to do; they want to be men, and when "made men" while boys, it is particularly interesting. And get a boy up once and you will never get him down again. Let him take hold in the management and labor of the farm with his father, and he will never go back to the boy again; that is played out.

You have his mind on a course of intelligence now. His work tells. He misses it sometimes, and this might have been avoided by the directions of the father; but the father saw a benefit in this error, in letting the boy work it out himself—in letting him correct himself. He will then, to avoid shame, not permit a like thing if possible. In a short time he will become developed, and that toward the ways of the farm, getting an aptitude and love.

Where would all this have been had the father proved a tyrant, and held the boy to a work he had no interest in; for it is deplorable, but nevertheless true, that fathers too often have a frown for their children but a good word for their servants. This a child will not stand. It will become discouraged, put out with such treatment. It finds its labor in the traces, and the farm the place to practice it on—the greater the yield the worse for the boy.

very low. They speak also of the Ku-Klux Klan disturbances, and the dissatisfaction of the white population at the result of the late American rebellion—circumstances which render any permanent investment in that country unsafe and inadvisable.

We extract the above from the *Waterford Express*, as we wish to furnish as much information as we can procure about agricultural prospects and progress in our own country. But it is of little use repeating too often what is well known. Let our farmers write more, and fill this small paper with our own opinions of what we hear and experience. The above may differ from the accounts we have heard from some who have been to examine for themselves from this part of the country. We shall be pleased to publish an original article from any of our Canadian friends when they will be pleased to forward them, even about their prospect in foreign lands.

FAMILY PEACE.—It is recorded that an Emperor of China, once making a journey through his dominions, was, by chance, entertained in a house in which the master, with his wife, children, daughter-in-law, grand-children, and servants all lived together in perfect peace and harmony. The Emperor, struck with admiration at the spectacle, requested the head of the family to inform him what means he used to preserve quiet among such a number and variety of persons. The old man, taking out his pencil, wrote these three words:—*Patience—Patience—Patience.*

HEAVES IN HORSES.—Heaves in horses is distinguished by a kind of jerking double flank movement at each expiration, generally more or less accompanied with a slight peculiar cough often approaching a grunt, which no one who has owned horses that had the heaves will ever mistake. It is supposed to be directly caused by the digestive organs failing to supply so full an amount of nutritive matter to the breathing apparatus of the lungs, as a free, healthy action requires. When once established, the disease is commonly regarded as incurable, and the opinion is not far from correct. It may, however, be much mitigated, or suspended, by giving proper food. Always give green, wet, or succulent fodder—as fresh grass in summer, and cut and soaked hay in winter. A spoonful of ginger added at each feeding will generally remove the symptoms entirely for some hours, but we could not recommend the long-continued use of a local stimulant of this kind. When taken early, in young horses the disease may be entirely cured by mixing grease or lard in small quantities with the food, in addition to the care already mentioned. In one instance a young horse was permanently cured by compelling him to drink the greasy water from washing dishes, with a portion of refuse milk mixed with it, and the whole commonly known by the specific name, "dish water." He soon learned to like it, and it was continued as his chief and only drink for four years, when every trace of the heaves had disappeared.—*Country Gent.*

BE SOCIAL AT HOME.—Let parents talk much and talk well at home. A father who is habitually silent in his own house may be in many respects a wise man, but he is not wise in his silence. We sometimes see parents, who are the life of every company they enter, dull, silent, uninteresting at home among their children. If they have not mental activity and mental stores sufficient for both, let them first provide for their own household. Ireland exports beef and wheat, and lives on potatoes; and they fare as poorly who reserve their social charms for companions abroad, and keep their dullness for home consumption. It is better to instruct children and make them happy at home than it is to charm strangers or amuse friends. A silent house is a dull place for young people—a place from which they will escape if they can. They will talk or think of being "shut up" there; and the youth who does not love home is in danger.

CHILDISH QUESTIONING.—Those parents run the risk of losing their children who put aside their trivial questions as of no consequence. An interrogation point symbolizes the life of childhood. "Why?" and "What?" are the keys with which it unlocks the treasury of the world. The boy's numberless questions often seem trivial, but the wise parent will never turn them off unanswered, if he can help it. It is a rich opportunity of teaching. He is met half way, and there is all the difference between impressing the truth on an eager mind and an uninterested one. The little fellow helping you at your work, and spearing you with endless questions, may learn as much in half an hour there as in a week, when his body is a prisoner in a school-room, and his thoughts are out of doors.

GUNPOWDER FOR BORERS. Stillman Stockwell, of Lyons, Iowa, wrote: "It frequently happens that we nearly destroy the tree before we can find the borer. In case I cannot find him without much trouble, I make a hole with a small bit as far ahead as I can, and hit the bole of the borer; then put in say a thimbleful of powder, plug the hole the borer has made with moist dirt or rag, then fire the powder with a hot wire, and by the time the smoke is clear, the borer is dead. It makes no difference whether he goes up or down, the fire will find and cook him perfectly. Sometimes it is necessary to make a small cartridge of paper, or a goose-quill. I have practised this course for some years, and have seen no bad results.

CHINESE METHOD OF PRESERVING GRAPES. Travellers inform us that the Chinese have a method of preserving grapes, so as to have them at their command during the entire year; and a recent author gives us the following account of the method adopted:—It consists in cutting a circular piece out of a ripe pumpkin or gourd, making the aperture large enough to admit the hand. The interior is then completely cleaned out, the ripe grapes are placed inside, and the cover replaced and pressed firmly in. The pumpkins are then kept in a cool place—and the grapes will be found to retain their freshness for a very long time. We are told that a very careful selection must be made of the pumpkins—the common field pumpkin, however, being well adapted for the purpose in question.

SURE "POP" ON LICE.—It is said that to kill lice, thoroughly wet them with alcohol; this will kill both nits and lice; they will die as soon as the alcohol touches them, and become perfectly dried up in a very short time. This can be applied without any risk of injury at any time, and Biddy says: "It is the greatest thing ye ever heard tell of for the heads of the children."