

"PLOUGH DEEP TO FIND THE GOLD."

BY JOHN PALMER.

Plough deep to find the gold, my boys!
Plough deep to find the gold!
The earth has treasures in her breast,
Unmeasured and untold.

Mark yon field of stately stooks
Rise on an Autumn day!
Lusty Labour jocund looks
Amidst their thick array;

Mark the barn-yard's ample space,
How grateful to behold!
Towers of riches fill the place—
Plough deep, and find the gold!

Earth is grateful to her sons
For all their care and toil;
Nothing yields such large returns
As drained and deepened soil.

Science lend its kindly aid,
Her riches to unfold;
Moved by plough or moved by spade,
Stir deep to find the gold!

Dig deep to find the gold, my boys!
Dig deep to find the gold!
The earth has treasures in her breast,
Unmeasured and untold.

JOHN PALMER.

Annan, 1847.

COAL ASHES—COMPOST FOR CORN.

I have been experimenting in the use of *coal ashes* for potatoes. On half an acre I put nothing but such ashes; on an acre adjoining was spread a good coating of well rotted horse manure; and on another half acre adjoining both the preceding, nothing. Soil, a sandy loam. I found the coal ashes fully equal to the horse manure, the potatoes being very fine for the season. Where there was nothing, the yield was about *one half* what it was on the other portions,—both in quantity and size. I planted half a row with *diseased* potatoes, not a single sound one among them; but in the product I have not yet found the first diseased tuber.

The following was my compost for corn, during the past season:—forty bushels of pigeon dung; forty bushels of hog dung, well-rooted, from beneath an old pen; ten bushels of plaster; and five of unleached ashes. A common handful was put in each hill. The corn was earlier by two weeks, larger ears, better filled, and more of them, but less fodder, than where I put fifteen large two-horse loads of barn-yard manure to the acre. The whole crop was in the same field, and the soil and tillage were alike in both parcels.

Brunswick, Col. Co. Pa. J. H. YOUNG.

—*Albany Cultivator*, Feb. 1848.

INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

Mr. PAYSON, in his address before the Essex county (Mass.) Agricultural Society, says—"To enumerate *all* the improvements which have been made in Agriculture for the last half century, would take too much time. *One*, not only an improvement in itself, but the *basis* of all other improvements, must not be omitted, and that is the diffusion of agricultural knowledge by the newspaper press. Slowly, silently, almost by stealth, without the knowledge of the man himself, this mighty engine undermines old prejudices, and teaches the farmer that however independent he may be, he is not so wise that the experience of others will not profit him. Most of us have become willing to seek *directions* even though they may be contained in a book. We are becoming more like liberal, free-born, and aspiring men."

In relation to the same subject, Mr. I. S. HITCHCOCK, in his address before the Oneida county, (N. Y.) society, observes—"A medium of communication between farmers was found to be indispensable to the advancement of their interests, and the periodical agricultural press was established. That agricultural journals are among the most decided, and least expensive means of promoting agriculture, no one who has been favoured with their perusal for any length of time, will pretend to deny. While their influence has been highly beneficial, they have injured no one, and since their utility has been fairly tested by experience, that farmer is guilty of an unpardonable inattention to his true interests, who neglects to provide himself with a well conducted Journal of this kind. I am aware there is a prejudice against what some are pleased to call book-farming. And what is this book farming in relation to which such unfounded and untenable prejudices prevail? Farmers communicate to each other the results of their experience in raising horses, cattle, sheep and swine, the best and most economical modes of manuring their lands, the most profitable crops, and the best manner of raising them, the best breed of animals, and the best modes by which they may be fattened—in short, everything relating to the occupation of the farmer. The results are committed to paper, go through the press and become a book, and those who choose to be aided by the experience of others, as there detailed are guilty of book-farming."

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