

ing it well in the bottom of the drills, and covering it up as soon as possible with a good heavy furrow. I then plant the corn, with a planter, on the top of the drill, taking care to roll the drills well down, so that they are very little above the natural level of the ground. This plan I have found to answer very well, though in a very dry time the corn will sometimes be a little longer in coming up. In planting with the drill I use a one horse roller, sufficiently long to cover two drills, the one we are planting, and the last one we have planted; thus pressing down the manure well, breaking all the clods, and leaving the whole fine and smooth. Should the roller not be heavy enough to make the drill as level as it seems desirable at first, I roll them a second time, after planting, as I think it essential that they are well rolled down, weighing down the roller with some heavy article. The drill used is set to drop the corn nearly three feet apart, to drop from four to six grains in a hill, and to cover from one to two inches deep. If the weather is moist, shallow, if dry, we cover a little deeper. If pumpkins are wanted, they are planted afterwards.

As soon as the corn is fairly above the ground, I give it a top dressing of plaster or ashes, or plaster and ashes mixed, running at the same time the cultivator between the rows, as close to the young plants as possible, thus killing the young weeds that may be coming up; I then go over with the hand, killing the weeds between the hills. If the cultivating has been properly done, this can be done very rapidly, as their will be only a very narrow strip left to hoe. This past season, my farm hands hoed an acre a day the first time over. This process has to be repeated once, twice, or more times, as may be required to keep the weeds down, and the ground mellow, thinning out the plants to three or four in a hill, at the second hoeing. If time can be spared, the corn will grow all the better if run through with the cultivator once a week, until it becomes too large to work among. It is of great importance to keep the weeds from growing at all, but if they have got possession of the land they should be destroyed at all hazards, as every weed robs the ground of moisture; they are constantly absorbing from the soil, water through their roots, and evaporating it through their leaves into the atmosphere. The weeds in many a field of potatoes (or corn), evaporate during our hot July weather, 500 gallons of water per day per acre. I have sometimes set up corn with the plough, and then hilled with the hoe, but never saw any benefit from it, and think it best left level or very slightly hilled. When the land is mellow and clean, I do not think hilling, any benefit to the crop of corn.

In harvesting corn we like to cut it up, by the ground, as soon as we can, after the corn is fairly glazed. When cut rather

early, the corn will be fully as good, and the fodder much better, than if it is left till it is struck with frost. After cutting, bind it in sheaves, and set it up in shocks to cure; then draw to the barn and husk when wanted, or when convenient. As the fodder when thus got is valuable, care has to be taken, so that it may not heat or mould, as it is very apt to do. It should be spread thin on barn poles, or set up around the floor, or in lofts or sheds, or if it has to be stacked up outside, set up three poles and build around them, then covering the top with some straw—the poles to thoroughly ventilate, and the straw to prevent the rain from getting in.

The late Judge Buet, the first editor of the *Albany Cultivator*, was a great advocate for the growing of Indian corn; he used to say that it was as indispensable to a yankee, as the potato to an Irishman, or the oat to a Scotchman; that there was no crop more beneficial to the farmer than Indian corn; that it was the meat, meadow, and manure crop of the farm; that it was convertible into human food, in more forms than any other grain, and that its value in fattening domestic animals, was not exceeded by any other product of the farm. The method that he recommended for growing Indian corn, was to take clover lea, cover it well with long manure from the barnyard—say twenty loads to the acre, well spread, well and neatly ploughed under just before planting, well harrowed lengthwise of the furrow, but not tear up the soil, (the roller might precede the harrow with advantage); to plant about three feet by two and a half feet apart; to apply double the quantity of seed that was wanted to stand, to be thinned out to three or four plants when hoeing; that it should be slightly hilled up; that it should not be ploughed among when growing, as that broke its roots; but that the harrow and cultivator should be used instead; that it should be cut up by the ground as soon as the grain became glazed, or hard on the outside. He estimated the expense of ploughing, harrowing, planting, two hoeings, harvesting, and rent, for an acre of corn, at about sixteen dollars per acre.

Of the various special manures tried on corn, besides plaster, I have found bone dust, applied at the time of planting, the most beneficial. I have tried superphosphate of lime, but doubted if the increase of the crop repaid the cost. One experiment tried last season will not be repeated; when sowing turnip ground with salt and plaster mixed, having some left, I thought I would try some of it on the corn that was growing close by; so top dressed two drills, and omitted two, over a part of the field. On coming to hoe the corn a morning or two after, I found the drills I had sown the mixture on, looked just as if they had been struck with frost; some of the largest hills withered to the ground, and though they did somewhat recover, the drills thus dress-

ed looked much behind the others all the rest of the season.

The uses of Indian are very numerous; when very young we are told "the small young stalks of thickly sown crops are cut over by the Mexicans as an article for the dessert, and almost every one relishes green corn in its season. Then there are various preparations of the grain, such as johnny-cake, hominy, mush, samp, succatash, pop corn, &c.; and now it is largely used as substitute for arrowroot, known in Britain as *Osewego flour*, and as corn starch.

The use of the Indian corn plant for *soiling* cattle has long been known and recommended; a writer in the *Cultivator* of 1834, says that he had frequently adopted the expedient of sowing it for soiling, and also for winter fodder, when pasturage and meadow threatened to fail. It is now used largely for this purpose, and no plant answers better, or gives more feed to the acre than it does when properly manured and managed. Corn was at one time greatly recommended for making sugar, and many experiments were tried with it in the United States, but it evidently did not prove profitable, as for many years we have heard nothing of corn-stalk-sugar. This by the way was no new use for this plant, as Prescott in his history of the conquest of Mexico, after noticing several of the most important articles of their husbandry say "that the great staple of the country, as indeed of the American continent, was maize or Indian corn, which grew freely along the valleys, and up the steep sides of the cordilleras to the high level of the table-land. The Aztecs were as curious in its preparation, and as well instructed in its manifold uses as the most expert New England housewife. Its gigantic stalks, in these equinoctial regions afford a saccharine matter not found to the same extent in northern latitudes, and supplied the natives with *sugar* little inferior to the cane itself; which was not introduced among them till after the conquest in 1519.

Indian Corn is also largely used or abused, for distilling all over North America, and in South America it appears to have been made into *Chico* or maize beer at a very remote period—it was a common drink of the Indians long before the Spanish conquest. It was commonly made in a similar manner to ordinary beer. The liquor is said to be of a dark yellow colour with an agreeable slightly bitter acid taste; it is in universal demand on the west coast of South America, and is consumed in vast quantities by the Mountain Indians; scarcely a single hut in the interior is without its jar of these favourite liquors.

Besides the use made of Indian corn as food and drink for man in its various preparations, it is largely used for feeding cattle and stock of all kinds. In the Western States, cattle and pigs are turned into the corn fields and there fatten for the market, thus saving all harvesting. With us it is used for feeding pigs, either whole or ground