

ould be tried on wheat, turnips, and meadow-land, at the rate of *sevent* per acre. I am now of opinion that it was too late for *beats*; for, although it appeared to make the straw grow stronger, *do not believe* there was any material increase in the quantity of *gain* over the adjoining land which was not manured. For turnips, *consider* it entirely failed, and was of no use whatever; but on *meadow-land* its effects were astonishing. In the course of *one or ten days* after the application it could be seen to an inch *where it had been sown*; and, on mowing the field, 90 square yards *was measured*, and the grass carted off as soon as cut, and weighed; *the weight was 30 stone, of 14 lbs. to the stone.* The same quantity *was then measured off* that part of the field immediately adjoining, *which had not been dressed with the nitrate of soda*; that part *was cut and weighed in the same manner, and the weight of it was 14 stone.* I must add that the land was of precisely the same *quality in the same field, and the whole field had been equally well* manured in the winter with good farm-yard manure. *I afterwards had it tried on several meadow-fields after the hay* had been carried, and the effect was visible by a great increase in *the growth of the after-grass, and both cattle and sheep seem to* do it greedily."

## SOD FENCE.

We have somewhere read that the peasants, in portions of France, *enclose* their small farms with fences of sods or turf; and that on *these fences* they grow most of their fuel. Where we met with the *account* we do not now recollect; but the perusal left in our memory *a distinct impression* of all that was needful for imitating the process. *Last autumn, the public good, required* the county commissioners *to open a way* through our private domains and impose upon us *the burthen* of constructing 145 rods of fence. We had neither *wood nor stone* for the purpose. Along portions of the line we *used* a tolerably good upland sward—some of the way was bog *sod*—and some, a brittle upland soil. In October last, we *commenced* laying up sods—the fence four feet wide at the surface *of the ground, and two feet wide at 3½ feet from the surface.* At *the sides* we trenched from one and a half to two feet in both width *and depth.* So that from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the *fence* was five feet or more. We completed about thirty rods last *autumn* and sowed apple pomace upon it. The boys—and some *of them* full grown—have found it agreeable to make this fence a *path* through the winter and spring, and have so trodden down *the covering* of the pomace, that we shall have no trees this season. *As soon as the road is made, and it is known in the vicinity* of the top of the fence is planted, we shall have no evil of the kind *to complain of.* The fence itself—though the winter was one to *it*—has stood well. We have laid the foundation and brought *to the* completion nearly one hundred rods more. Much of the *work* we are obliged to haul the sods a few rods, and to mix in hard *clay*—the hummocks, or brake heads, brought from the pasture lands *where* we are breaking up. With one or two layers of these, we can *make* a fence of earth, even where there is little if any sward. *At the* expense of putting up this kind of fence will be, we have *no means* of determining accurately. But it will not exceed fifty *cents* per rod. It requires the soil of a strip of land a rod wide or *more* of *it*, to make such a fence—but this is not all lost land. In three *or four* years it will all grass over, and the fence proper will bear a *small* crop of grass.

Some of our neighbors having watched our operations, and seen *that* our fence stood the winter, has built about 80 rods of such *a fence* this spring. He had nearly all the way a tolerably good *soil*, and an easy subsoil to shovel. His fence was built by the *labor* of two men in 1½ days after the ground was plowed. The *expense* might cost from a dollar to a dollar and a half. *Where* rocks are abundant, stone wall is the best fence on a farm. *Where* rails and posts are at hand, they do well; but where neither *are* had conveniently, and where the soil itself admits of being *used* into a fence, there the sod fence may be desirable.—*New England Farmer.*

**PLANTING BEANS**—*J. Buel, Esq.*—Dear Sir, The following simple *and easy* method of saving a crop of Beans is worth the price of *your* subscription to the *Cultivator*, to every person that never *used* it, who wishes to cultivate that valuable crop. By this *method* Beans planted in a field by themselves may be pulled while *they* are entirely green, and will be perfectly cured, no matter *what* the weather, and what is more need not be housed or

thrashed until such time as may be convenient. This is the plan *to cure* Beans. Take common fence stakes into your bean field, *and set* them stiff in the ground, at convenient distances apart, which *experience* will soon show you, and put a few sticks or stones *around* for a bottom to your stack, and then as you pull an arm-full, *take* them to the stakes, and lay them around, *the roots always* to the stake, as high as you can reach and tie the top course with a *string* or a little straw, to prevent them from being blown off, and *you* will never complain again, "that you cannot raise beans because *they* are so troublesome to save." They are the easiest crop ever *raised* to take care of. Try it, and you will then know it, and *thank* me for telling you of it. Your friend, SOLON ROBINSON.

**MANURES.**—That Manure is one of the essential agents to increase *the crops* of the farmer, is admitted by all. Why, then, it *may be* asked, is it so much neglected, when the means of providing *it* are so entirely within the reach of every farmer. One reason *probably* is, that farmers do not adopt a system of operations, by *which* every thing appertaining to the cultivation of the farm has *its* proper place and time. Another doubtless is, that too much *land* is generally under cultivation. So that the labor of the farm *engrosses* so much time of the farmer, that he cannot prepare manure *sufficient* and in season for his use. A proper care and attention *to the* manuring of the land, pursued with regularity and system, *upon a* farm where no more land is occupied than can be well *attended* to, would soon render every farm as productive as could *be* desired. We intend in our next number to give an article on *this* subject, and endeavor to turn attention to the importance of a *thorough* and systematic course of improvement in this respect. If *it* can be shown, as we think it can be, that every farmer of ordinary *means*, can improve his land and increase his crops by a judicious *application* of manure, we shall hope a new impulse will be given *to our* farmers,—and that every one will strive to make the most *of the* advantages which are at his very door, and wait only for him *to* avail himself of them.—*Central N. Y. Farmer.*

**OVERTRADING**—It was an excellent rule of an ancient Philosopher, *when an* enemy accused him wrongfully, wholly to disregard *the* slander: but if justly, quietly to amend his fault. The charge *of* overtrading applied to the people of the United States has certainly *much* to support it, and it will be wise in us to imitate the *philosopher*, not to murmur at the accusation, but diligently to *endeavour* to mend our ways. *To live within our income*, though a *trite*, is certainly a safe and prudent maxim. If a farmer sells one *thousand* dollars worth of produce in a year from his farm, and *buys* sixteen hundred dollars worth of goods and nick-nacks, he is *unquestionably* going down hill, and he may expect, in the words *of the* Prompter, that every one will give him a kick. But if he sells *sixteen* hundred dollars worth, and expends but one thousand *dollars* in a year, he is in a thriving condition, and every one is disposed *to* lend him a helping hand—so true it is that we are disposed *to* help others in proportion as they are honestly inclined to help *themselves*: for those only who can and do help themselves, are likely *to* require the favors we render them. If we apply these rules *to the* national family we shall see that we are in a bad way; for while *we* sold, or exported, during the last year, but one hundred millions *from* the national farm, we bought, or imported, one hundred and *sixty* millions of foreign goods or products—thus running in debt *sixty* millions in a single year. It requires no great foresight *to* see that this sort of overtrading will ultimately prove as disastrous *to the* nation as it would to the individual, and common sense suggests *the* same remedy for the evil to the nation, that prudence *would* dictate to the individual, viz. buy less, and earn and sell more.—*Cultivator.*

**Beware of Saltpetre, in the Salt at the Bottom of Your Great Barrels**—To-day we met an old farmer who was not aware *that* this article was as fatal to swine as arsenic or ratsbane to the *human* race. Not long since in our absence, our hired man salted *a* large boiler of swill with some old salt which had been taken *from* a barrel in which we had pickled our hams. Of three fed *with* this cooked food, two died. One the man remarked drank *freely* cold water immediately, and escaped. They could have *been* taken but a few grains of saltpetre each, yet sudden death was *the* consequence. No censure could attach to the man—he knew *saltpetre* was fatal, and took this old salt as a matter of economy, *not* knowing that it contained a particle of saltpetre.—*Boston Cultivator.*