

A word—a look—has crushed to earth,
Full many a budding flower,
Which, had a smile but owed its birth,
Would bless life's darkest hour.

Then deem it not an idle thing
A pleasant word to speak ;
The face you wear, the thoughts you bring
A heart may heal or break.

AGRICULTURAL.

FALL PLOUGHING.

The question is sometimes asked, is it best to plough land in the fall ? and if answered in the affirmative, the reasons for such a procedure are demanded. We think that fall ploughing is desirable in most cases, and on most soils, for the following, among other reasons, that might be given.

1st. It is one of the established principles of philosophical agriculture, that the soil derives much of its productive property from the air, and that chemical changes and combinations are constantly going on, by which fertility is much increased. These alterative effects of the atmosphere, and these changes of the qualities of the soil, are the more active and efficient as new surfaces are exposed to new action. For instance, much greater quantities of carbonic gas will be absorbed by a given surface of earth, if that earth is frequently stirred, than if it was allowed to remain with a single saturated surface. Ploughing, by exposing new surfaces to the action of the atmosphere, must be productive of essential benefit ; and as fall ploughing generally takes place after crops which have partially exhausted the surface of some of its nutritive and absorbent qualities, its service in aid of spring crops is greatly enhanced.

2d. There is always on land more or less grass, weeds, stubble, or other vegetable matters convertible into mold by fermentation and decomposition, a process which is greatly aided by being turned under the surface of the earth. Fall ploughing renders such substances much sooner available in advancing the growth of crops, than they would be if left uncovered during the winter ; independent of the great loss necessarily sustained by the washing away of the lighter materials and their dispersion by the winds.

3d.—Nothing acts more efficiently on moist soils in promoting vegetation, than high pulverization ; and fall ploughing aids this operation most essentially. Lands that if ploughed in the spring only will remain in large cakes or lumps, defying the efforts of the farmer to reduce them suitably, will if ploughed in the fall be found loosened in texture, and fitted for early operations in the spring of the year. Frost is the most efficient disintegrator of the soil with which the agriculturist is acquainted, and he should avail himself of its valuable labours in all practicable cases.

4th.—The earlier the ground can be prepared for the suitable reception of spring crops, such as corn, spring wheat, and barley, the better it will be found for the cultivator ; and in nine cases out of ten, early sown crops are the heaviest, and most productive.

5th.—Ploughing land acts more effectually in destroying insects than any other mode of treatment, and fall ploughing for this purpose is preferable to any other. Those insects which produce the most mischief to the farmer, such as the fly, cut-worm, grub, &c., cannot resist the frost of our winters, if prematurely exposed to its action by a fall ploughing. The cut-worm which accumulates in such numbers in old meadows and pastures, is thus destroyed, and crops planted on them saved.

Lastly.—Our summers are so limited in duration, that unless the time allotted to vegetation is fully occupied by the growth and ripening of plants, the certain failure of crops may be anticipated. Hence the farmer usually is more hurried by his work in the spring than he ought to be, in order to avoid having his crops caught by the frost and snow. It should be the object of the farmer to have his necessary labour as nearly equalized through the season as possible, and thus avoid all pressures at inconvenient seasons of the year. Experience shows that the farmer in most cases, has more leisure hours in the fall of the year than at any other time, and he who would work it right, should employ this time in advancing his next spring's work, for such fall ploughing

emphatically is, and thus preventing the pressure of business then usually felt.

These reasons we think sufficient to justify the practice of fall ploughing ; and unless in cases where the deep silicious or porous nature of the soil seems to forbid its use, we cannot doubt that our farmers will find it turn to their account in adopting the practice. If any, however, are doubtful on the subject, they can easily bring the matter to the test of experiment, and govern themselves accordingly.—*Genesee Farmer.*

BRIEF HINTS FOR COMMENCING WINTER.

Cattle and all domestic animals should commence the winter in good condition.

Do not undertake to winter more cattle than you have abundant means of providing for.

Let every farmer aim to have next spring, instead of thin, bony, slab-sided, shaggy cattle ; fine, smooth, round, and healthy ones, and to this end let him spare no pains ; and.

First, let the cattle be *well fed* ;

Secondly, let them be *fed regularly* ;

Thirdly, let them be properly *sheltered* from the pelting storm.

Proper food and regularity of feeding will save the flesh on the animal's back, and shelter will save the fodder.

All domestic animals in considerable numbers should be divided into parcels and separated from each other in order that the weaker may not suffer from the domination of the stronger, nor the diseased from the vigorous.

Farmers who have raised root crops, (and all good farmers have doubtless done so) should cut them up and mix them with drier food, as meal, chopped hay, straw or cornstalks, and feed them to cattle and sheep.

Cow-houses and cattle stables should be kept very clean and well littered. To allow animals to lie down in the filth which is sometimes suffered to collect in stables, is perfectly insufferable. By using plenty of straw or litter, the consequent increase in the quantity of manure, will much more than repay the supposed waste of straw.

All stables should be properly ventilated.

Mixing food is generally better than feeding cattle on one substance alone.

Cattle will generally eat straw with as much readiness as hay if it is salted copiously, which may be done by sprinkling brine over it.

A great saving is made by cutting not only straw and cornstalks, but hay also.

Sheep, as well as all other domestic animals, should have a constant supply of good water during winter. They should also be properly sheltered from the storm, for a great point in the secret of keeping them in good condition, is to keep them *comfortable*.—*Id*

We invite special attention to the following Memorandum of the mode of curing Provisions for the British market, drawn up by one of the most experienced provision merchants of London.—*En.*

MIDDLES OF PORK IN TIERCES OF 336 LBS.—Are cut from the entire middle of the pig ; cutting out the *backbone* and taking the legs and shoulders straight off ; the *rumps* are cut into triangular pieces, and packed by themselves in either tierces or barrels. The shorter the middles are cut, that is to say, the less of the shoulder part annexed to them the better : these are packed in pickle as strong as it can be made.

MIDDLES OF PORK IN BALES AND MATTING.—Are cut the same and *cured in dry salt* ; should be packed 5 or 6 in a bale, and the weight put out side on a tally—salt should be put between each middle—this description of pork might answer for large casks, taking care to put in a sufficient quantity of salt. It is doubtful whether this description of provisions would carry from the interior to Britain, from Quebec or Montreal it might.

SINGED BACON SIDES.—The pig not to be driven for some days previous to killing, when slaughtered the hair to be burnt off with straw ; then hung up until the next day ; then divided and the clime or backbone and lard taken from it—make an incision into the shoulder and extract the backbone—then fill up that pocket with salt. The side to be laid in a cool place and some salt rubbed