

corroborated by general experience. To prevent and also to stop this hoiving, it has been recommended to lay the cheeses in a moderately cool, dry place, and regularly to turn them. Whenever any one becomes considerably swollen, it will be requisite to prick it deeply with a large awl or pin on both sides, and particularly where it is most elevated, and to repeat this as often as may be necessary.

FARM-YARD MANURE.—I was once a Devonshire farmer, and thought they were many clever and experienced men among us who knew almost everything, but my experience since has convinced me they were deficient in many things, and nothing more so than the slovenly way they managed their farm-yard manure. It is not unusual now to see the litter from the stable thrown out at the window, and the eaves of a long roof allowed to drip upon it, or to be wheeled out into the yard, and there exposed to the winter rains, the drainage of which frequently runs into a road or ditch; if a meadow happens to lay below, it is not sufficient to be of any use, but sinks away in the bottom of the gutters. Throughout all the winter, it is thrown up in great heaps, and the essential qualities that are not pressed out by its own weight, are generally allowed to fly off in evaporation by overheating. Every scientific man must admit that this method is decisively wrong, and is aware what is lost by such an injudicious process. The best constructed farm-yard and management of manure I ever saw, is Mr. Spooner's, the late elected M. P. for Birmingham. His gentleman has a farm from 150 to 200 acres, situated near the city of Worcester, in the highest state of cultivation, on which he grows the most luxuriant crops, without having expended a shilling for manure for many years (with the exception of a trifling sum for those lately-introduced novelties by way of experiment), but has sold much farm-yard manure to his neighbours not knowing how to dispose of it on the farm. Although he does not possess an acre of watered meadow, he has generally hay for sale; this may appear rather strange, but not more strange than true. In the centre of his farm-yard is the manure pit, or eight feet deep, covered by a roof, and surrounded by a drain well, so as to prevent the possibility of any water getting into it. It is the same form as the yard but leaving sufficient room for a carriage-way betwixt it and the buildings. It is entered by an inclined plane wide enough to back in a cart, opposite the approach to the yard. Into this pit the dung from the stables and cow-house is promiscuously thrown; in the middle of the side contiguous to the latter is a well and a pump, which receives the drainage therefrom and the stables, which is pumped up and spread over the manure by a sluice. The surplus liquid that is not absorbed is drawn off by means of a drain into a receiving well in the stack-yard, where it is pumped up into the liquid manure-cart, and drawn out on the mowing ground as soon as the grass is cut, until such time as it is laid up again; in the spring it is otherwise disposed of, on headlands and heaps of soil. Liquid and solid manure, prepared in the way above described, preserve all its nutritious qualities; the one is not diluted with water, and the other not suffered to deteriorate by over-heating, and is of treble the value of that made in the common manure.—*Correspondent Western Times.*

Manuring of Seeds by Steeping in Saline Solutions.

The attention of Scotch agriculturists was first directed to this subject by Professor Johnson's paper in the January number of the *Journal of Agriculture*, and by a notice of Mr. Campbell's experiments in the *Transactions of the Highland Society*, appended to the same number. These statements, particularly the latter produce considerable sensation; and many farmers purchased small quantities of the salt and applied them as directed, for the purpose of feeding their way towards a more extensive use of the steepers.

Feeling considerable interest in anything that promises to add to the resources of the cultivator of the soil we have visited a good many of the localities where steeped seeds were sown, and shall continue to visit them at intervals during the summer, keeping a record of the progress and appearance of the experimental plots. It is only after harvest, when the actual weights have been arrived at, that we can speak with certainty concerning these important trials; yet occasional notices of the appearance of these experiments will prove interesting to our readers, and, we trust, influence others at a distance to send us statements on the same subject.

Up to the present time, we have been unable to perceive the slightest difference between the appearance in colour, vigour, or

advancement of the braird from steeped seeds, and that from unsteeped seed. The weather which for a month has been unusually cold and dry, will no doubt account for this. The braird from steeped seeds is decidedly thinner in plant. This may be owing to some of the seeds not having vegetated; but we would rather attribute it to the circumstance that a smaller allowance of seed per acre was sown, to afford room for growth and til-
 lering.

Without anticipating the results of these experiments we shall now notice some mistaken notions and exaggerated expectations that are abroad, and which, be the result as it may, cannot be too speedily checked and rectified. It is a general expectation with many that these steepers are to render all manure unnecessary. Mr. Campbell says—"The discovery of a process by which the cereal and other graminaceous seeds might be obtained in extraordinary abundance, without the use of manures, is certainly a great desideratum. Now this desideratum, however strange it may appear, I have good grounds for considering I have attained." And again in his circular he says—"In this discovery is actually realized the boast of science, which some years ago prophetically asserted, that the time would soon come when one might carry in his pocket matter sufficient to manure an acre of land." Nothing can be more fallacious or unwarranted than the conclusion, that a small quantity of a saline solution absorbed by a seed can substitute, or come in the place of manure. If the steep does anything at all, it is to enable the plant to draw more largely on the air, and on the soil. So far as it draws more largely on the air, there is manifest profit and advantage. The air is common property—the air cannot be exhausted, but it is not so with the soil! and just by as much as the steeping enables the seed to draw more largely from the soil, by so much is the soil impoverished, and rendered less fit to minister to any succeeding crop. Should it turn out that the same steepers give to the plants, greater development and feeding powers, it will be a great point gained; a power, however that will require to be used cautiously, and with discrimination. By steeping, a saving of seed will be effected, and a larger crop secured from land in good condition, or that has great resources; but the farmer must not dream of the same thing on poor land, far less the continuance of successive good crops with the use of no manure but the steepers. In favourable circumstances, then, it may not be altogether chimerical to talk of carrying in one's pocket the salt necessary to steep seeds for an acre of land, but to those sanguine persons who would combine a continuance of the practice with the use of no other manure we would give the old caution, "take care lest the pocket that carried out the manure proves capacious enough to carry back the crop."

When next we notice the progress of these experiments, we shall show, by tabular statements, how large a quantity of inorganic matter which can come from no source but the soil, is carried off in crops, and lost to the land, unless restored or replaced in the shape of manure.—*Scottish Farmer.*

NEWS.

The King of the French has paid a visit to Queen Victoria at Windsor. All was of course cordiality, magnificence and enthusiasm.

The Grand Duchess Olga is to be married to Prince George of Cambridge. This is regarded as the result of the journey of the Emperor of Russia to England, and as the commencement of a more intimate alliance between Russia and England. The Prince Royal of Hanover having no family, it is known that the Duke of Cambridge is heir presumptive to the crown of Hanover.

Lady Heytesbury, the lady of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland died on the 6th inst.

The lady of Mr. Pritchard, late British Consul at Tahiti, landed in Cove on the 3rd inst.

On the 8th inst., Dr. Symons who was opposed by the Puseyites, was elected Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University, by a majority of 882 to 183.

One hundred shares in the Thames Tunnel, which originally cost £5,000, were sold a few days ago for £30, in London.

Six miles of atmospheric railway, from the Dartmouth Arms to Croymond, will, it is expected, be ready in May next. The engineer is Mr. Cubitt, and the object is, by a double line, to test the