

peculiar in our correspondent's case, which he has not stated. Incessantly cropping land with grain, without an annual return of rich and varied manure, will be sure, in the long run, to exhaust and render worthless the richest soils.

To avoid so much naked fallow and to increase the amount of winter provender for stock, we recommend our correspondent to put in some half dozen acres with Swedish turnips, mangel-wurtzel, potatoes, and the Belgian white carrot. If the soil be heavy, parsnips are well suited, and they are excellent food for cattle, particularly milch cows. All these crops should be sown in drills, sufficiently wide apart to admit of the horse-hoe or cultivator;—an implement of small cost and which no farmer, however small his holding, ought to be without. The success of root culture depends greatly upon *the frequent stirring of the soil during the period of growth*: and if the land is not too weedy to begin with, it answers most of the purposes of a naked fallow.—It is, however, of importance to remark, that root culture can never be successfully carried on upon exhausted arable land, without a liberal dressing of manure, which, if farm-yard dung, should be deeply ploughed in, the previous fall.

The system of ploughing alluded to by our correspondent in Dumfries, we dare say is a good one. Will no farmer in that well cultivated township furnish us with particulars and authoritative results? There are some soils, possessing such fine and adhesive particles, that have a strong tendency to *run together*, as it is commonly termed, after they have been thoroughly disintegrated by the plough in the fall. Such soils in the spring commonly require deeply ploughing again; we have seen no cultivators on this continent at all adequate to the purpose. In England, such as Earl Ducie's or Finlayson's, require the draught of four or five strong horses, in order to work from 12 to 18 inches deep. As to weeds in general, the only effectual way of getting quit of them is to destroy both root and branch, *by thorough cultivation*. When land is once got perfectly clean—a judicious system of rotation and manuring, with good culture, will not fail to keep it so; and at the same

time keep up, or rather improve its productive powers. And this should be the object of every farmer, who desires in the long run, both profit and fame.]—EDITOR.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture has been aptly styled "the nursing mother of all the arts." It is the basis, the soul of our national prosperity. Commerce and manufactures conduce, in a great measure, to wealth; but the cultivation of the soil ever has been, and ever will continue to be, the fountain-head of all the streams of a country's resources.

There can be no strength in a state, and no moral health among the people, when the tillage of the land is neglected. We can date the decay of power and virtue of many nations from the decline of their agricultural industry. In Rome, for instance, when the wise policy of fostering agriculture was pursued, a healthful spirit pervaded the whole state. Then the laws were impartially administered, and justice done to all. Then labor was accounted honorable, and statesmen, and generals, and philosophers cultivated their farms with their own hands. It was then among the tillers of the soil arose a Regulus, a Cincinnatus, and an invincible soldiery. It was then that the "seven-hilled city" breathed defiance to her enemies, and caused nation after nation to yield to the resistless power of her legions, until the Roman eagle waved over the known world. But when largeness of corn were bestowed upon an idle populace, when agriculture was neglected, and war laid waste the fertile fields of Italy, then Roman virtue and Roman vigor fled. Soon intrigue, vice, and venality took firm hold in the state, until finally the "pale mother of empires" was abandoned to her enemies, and the palaces of the Cæsars echoed the tread of the victorious barbarian. History abounds in examples illustrative of the important fact, that the enduring greatness of a nation is mainly founded upon its agriculture, and rulers will do well to increase the prosperity of those who swing the scythe and hold the plough.

That country that does not possess within itself the means of affording subsistence to inhabitants, is, if we may trust the voice of experience, destined to sink to early ruin. National power based upon commerce alone, unsupported by a flourishing industry, which ministers to human wants and gratifications, must fall to the ground. Merely commercial states, dependent upon contingencies for their very life-blood, and imbued with the spirit of speculation which tend to enervate the body and corrupt the mind, contain within their own bosoms the seeds of dissolution. Phœnicia, Carthage, Genoa, Venice, and Holland of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, all bear witness to this fact. There is much truth in the verses of the poet Goldsmith:—

"Trade's proud empire hastes to swift decay,
As ocean sweeps the labored mole away;