

say, were not in thriving order. Straw would come into economical use in such a case—would go farther towards sustaining thrift than if fed ever so profusely. It is a *fact* which farmers ought to know and remember, that there is very little nutritive value to straw—that its greatest use as consumed by stock, is for filling the stomach, allaying hunger in some measure, yet, without other food, giving little sustenance to an animal. But used for littering stables and yards, it is a real comfort to stock, and thus keeps them more quiet and lessens the demand for food in any form. It is also of value as an absorbent of liquid manure, and for this purpose alone may be economically employed. We would venture to decide upon the crops of a farm, by a glance at the condition of the barn-yard and its tenants at this season—it is the time above all others, for liberal expenditure to secure economy, and to sustain without loss or waste the resources of the farmer.

All the fodder saved by allowing cattle and sheep the range of our meadows and pastures whenever the ground is bare in winter, costs more in waste of strength, flesh, milk, wool and manure, than double the hay would cost in market. And yet many close calculating farmers will not believe this. We have good authority for our assertion, nevertheless, and practical experience in wintering stock, shows us that no provocation of mild weather or bare ground, should tempt us to allow our yards to be open for the egress of stock. That farmer, we would remark in conclusion, though the subject is far from being exhausted, can best study economy of fodder, who has the barn and yards, the stables, stalls and mangers, which will enable him to feed his stock without waste, and with every attention of regularity, cleanliness, water, and comfortable shelter and bedding which "right management" demands.

FLOWERING OF POTATOES.—Mr. MANBY of England, in his prize essay on the cultivation of Early Potatoes, says that "a flower to an early potatoe is considered a sign of deterioration—the first symptom of *growing out*—it being contended that all the strength of the plant should be thrown into perfecting the tuber and not into the opposite extreme." He would therefore eradicate them as soon as they appear, and save seed from plants which have shewn no indication of flowering. Experiments have shewn that potato plants beginning to shew a tendency to flower, perfect their tubers less early and perfectly than before that tendency was developed.

AN EXPERIMENT IN DRAINING.—When we witness the change of a sterile soil into a fertile one through the influence of draining, it is conclusive evidence of the value of labor so applied. Such has recently come under our notice, and we shall recall it for our readers.

It not unfrequently happens in hilly or gently undulating districts, that intervals and damp springy soils abound, requiring draining before it can be brought into profitable cultivation. The instance in question, was a field of fair surface, quite free from