

This is a favourable time for turnips, as the season is sufficiently moist. The hay crop is very heavy on fertile lands, and has suffered some injury from being lodged and not yet cut. A high price has to be given for mowing, in consequence of the grass being much beaten down by heavy rain. Unless the weather is dry the crop will not be well got in, and the expense will be very considerable. We very much doubt that these expenses will not be fully remunerated to the farmer by the price that hay will sell for in the Montreal market. It will be advisable that farmers who have a large quantity of hay too far from market, to fatten cattle with it and grain, such as oats, and inferior barley. As there appears to be rather a scarcity of farm stock, both in Europe and America, the price of fat cattle and sheep is not likely to be very low for some time at least, but of course remunerating prices will encourage the growing of more stock. Well saved hay, fed in sufficient quantity to cattle put up in the fall in good condition, will keep them well and improve them, with the addition of a small quantity of grain, ground or bruised. The farmers of Canada should certainly be able to furnish abundant butchers' meat for our population, and they would have done so long ago, if the prices had not been reduced so exceedingly low by the importation of foreign cattle. This is the true cause that Canadian farmers did not turn their attention to growing cattle, the uncertainty of finding a market at any but ruinously low prices for them. The keeping and fattening of cattle would be much the most easy and agreeable mode of farming, if there was certain encouragement that they could be disposed of when fat, at remunerating prices. Hence it is, that depending upon foreign supply destroys all chance of a home-supply, because the foreign supply being irregular, coming at one time in much greater quantity than required, reduces prices to almost any scale that the purchasers wish to bring it to. If there was any certainty of the quantity of foreign meat to be imported in any year, our farmers might act accordingly—but the supply may come in thousands, or it may not come in hundreds—as we are ignorant of the means of a foreign country to give a short or full supply. We may judge of the capabilities of our own country to furnish meat, but this knowledge is useless to us, while foreign supply may come to any extent. We write as a farmer, we admit, but we are certain

nevertheless that it is the true policy of every country to encourage her own productions and resources as the most certain way to command a steady supply of all we may require, particularly when foreign countries will not be satisfied to trade with us on strict terms of reciprocity. We fear, however, that all we can say on this subject will not make any favorable change for our farmers, but that their interests will for a time be sacrificed to the mania of free-trade. The evil will be sure to cure itself before long, and this may reconcile us for the present to measures forced upon us that cannot fail to be injurious to us. The pastures are very good in the neighbourhood of Montreal, unless greatly overstocked. The supply of meat in market is abundant and excellent, and the prices not very high. Butter is sold  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9d. and 10d. per lb. Notwithstanding the number of emigrants that have arrived this year, the wages of labor are high, and good men for farm labor are difficult to procure. We have not seen so many Canadians seeking employment this year as usual, but it is rather early for them yet.

Cote St. Paul, 18th July, 1846.

#### THE ECONOMY OF MANURES.

BY MR. CUTHBERT JOHNSON.

(*Speech delivered at the Monthly Meeting of the Farmers' Club, on Monday, 4th May, 1846.*)

Mr. CUTHBERT JOHNSON immediately rose, and said—Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I respond to the call made upon me to bring the subject of this evening's discussion before you with every possible feeling of alacrity (*cheers*); but I wish to state at the beginning that when the card was put into my hands, and when I came to examine the terms of the question, I was rather puzzled as to how I should best direct my attention to the subject. My difficulty arose not from a feeling that I should not find enough to say upon such a subject, but rather in arranging it so as to bring it within the limits of any ordinary discussion of this club. According to the terms in which the question is drawn up, the economy of manure is made the leading part of the subject. Now, that, if strictly construed, takes in the whole subject of manures, and includes the examination not only of organic manures, but those of a mineral or permanent nature, saline manures, those which are applied by the drill, and those of a liquid nature. Finding, therefore, it impossible to enter thus fully into the merits of this important theme, I resolved to confine myself to the preparation of farmyard manure, because I thought that this was a question of the most vital importance to every farmer, and concerned the interests of every occupier of the soil throughout the country. For, although some have the power and the intelligence (and that is not a small number) to employ fertilisers of an artificial nature, every one has the farm-yard: and any suggestion which I could offer which would excite discussion, and any advantage which might be derived therefrom, I knew would be spread into the remotest parts of the kingdom (*cheers*.) The subject is, in fact, of equal importance to those who only hold one field, and to those who hold their fields by the hundred. Therefore, by your permission