

The seed was stored over winter, in the manner before directed by me. The planting was done in the middle of April; and here I beg to remark, that I perfectly agree with you as to the time of planting the general crop of potatoes, had we not such an enemy to guard against as the late disease, and it was in order to evade its blighting influence that I advised early planting. Yours &c., J. J. GORRIGAN, *Thomastown, April 18, 1848.*

*From the Farmer's Gazette.*

#### NEW MODE OF PREPARING BONES FOR MANURE.

SIR—Under this heading, in the last English Agricultural Society's Journal, there is a most important article, from Ph. Pusey, Esq., M. P. Having suffered considerable loss, last year, by the bursting of a carboy of sulphuric acid, on its way to my model farm, twenty one miles from this, I am exceedingly glad to find, as the result of experiments performed by the above-named gentleman, and by two farmers of his neighbourhood, that *wetted* bones, mixed with an equal quantity of damp sand or earth, or ashes of turf or coal, will heat so violently as to be too hot in the middle to be borne by the naked hand and, after a few days, will yield a material of two-thirds the original bulk, cheaper in its cost than the bones dissolved with sulphuric acid, and only half the expense of bone-dust in its ordinary state; 17 bushels of bone dust,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of sulphated bones, and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of heated bones and sand, producing nearly an equal weight of turnips from one English acre, and 16 bus. of bone-dust, 2 bus. of sulphated bones, 4 bus. of heated bones, giving an equal return from another.

Mr. Pusey considers that there should be about 80 bushels of bone-dust in each mixture, and the heap should be covered with earth. He ascribes the effect "to putrefication taking place in the gelatinous substance of the bone," and says, "that no disgusting smell is produced, merely a strong odour of ammonia when the heap is opened. Most of this ammonia is probably drilled into the land, an advantage over the process of dissolving bones in acid, which seems to drive the ammonia away."

I intend, this week to mix a heap of bone-dust and town dung under a shed here, to send out to my farm by return carts, to be ready when wanted for the turnip sowing, and I hope to be able, at some future time, to send you an account of the expense and produce.

I write this to give your readers the opportunity of trying an experiment so easily performed, and so important if generally proved to the agriculture of the country.—Yours &c., CHAS. BEAMISH, *Buckingham-place, April, 17, 1841.*

FARMERS IN THE OLDEN TIME.—Harrison, who wrote in 1577, thus speaks of the habits and condition of the farmers of old times:—"So common," he says, "were all sorts of treene (wooden) stuffe in old times, that a man should hardlie find foure pieces of pewter (of which one, peradventure, was a salte) in a good farmer's house; and yet for all this frugalitie (if so it may be justly called) they were scarce able to live and paie their rents, at their daies, without selling of a cow, or an horss, or mare, although they paid but foure pounds at the uttermost by the yeare. Such was also their povertie, that if some one old farmer, or husbandman, had been at the ale-house, (a thing greatlie used in their daies,) amongst six or seven of his neighbours, and there, in a braverie, to show what store he had, cast downe his purse, and therein a noble or six shillings in silver, unto them, it was verie likelie that all the rest could not laie downe so much against it. Whereas in my time, although, peradventure, the foure pounds of old rent be improved to fortie, or fiftie, or an hundred pounds, yet will the farmer, as another palme, or date tree, thinke his gaines verie small towards the ends of his time, if he had not six or seven yearse rent licing beside him, therewith to purchase a new lease; beside a faire garnish of pewter on his cupboard, with so much more in od vesseles going about the house; three or four feather beds, so manie coverlids and carpets of tapestrie, a silver salte, a bowle for wine, (if not a whole neast,) and a dozen of spoons

to furnishe up the sute.' Yet so difficult is it to content mankind, that the same Chronicler records the dissatisfaction at this increase of luxury of the old people of his time, who especially deplored three things, that 'were marvelously altered (*for the worst*) in England within their sound remembrance'—the multitude of chimneys lately erected, and the great increase of lodgings, with the exchange of treene platters into pewter, and wooden spoons into tin and silver.—They also complained bitterly of the use of oak in buildings; 'for when our houses,' said they, 'were of willowe, then had we oaken men; but now that our houses are come to be made of oake, our men are not onlie become willowe, but a greater manie altogether of strawe, which is a sore alteration.'—*Maidstone Gazette.*

LOVE OF THE ARABS FOR THEIR MARES.—"Can you tell me how the Arabs treat their mares, which are said to be remarkably docile. INQUIRER."—The following particulars respecting the treatment of Arab mares, and the estimation in which they are held by their owners, will interest many of our readers;—"The mare usually has but one or two meals in twenty-four hours. During the day she is tied to the door of the tent, ready for the Bedouin to spring, at a moment's warning, into the saddle; or she is turned out before the tent ready saddled, the bridle merely taken off, and so trained that she gallops up immediately at her master's call. At night she receives a little water; and with her scanty provender of five or six pounds of barley or beans, and sometimes a little straw, she lies down content, in the midst of her master's family. She can, however, endure great fatigue; she will travel fifty miles without stopping; she has been pushed, on emergency, one hundred and twenty miles, and occasionally, neither she nor her rider has tasted food for three whole days." Malcomb says, in his "Sketches of Persia," "An Arab sheick or chief, who lived within fifty miles of Bussorah, had a favourite breed of horses. He lost one of his best mares, and could not for a long while discover whether she was stolen or had strayed. Some time after, a young man of a different tribe, who had long wished to marry his daughter, but had always been rejected by the sheick, obtained the lady's consent and eloped with her. The sheick and his followers pursued, but the lover and his mistress, mounted on one horse, made a wonderful march, and escaped. The old chief swore that the fellow was either mounted upon the devil, or the favourite mare he had lost. After his return, he found the latter was the case; that the lover was the thief of his mare as well as his daughter; and that he stole the one to carry off the other. The chief was quite gratified to think he had not been beaten by a mare of another breed; and was easily reconciled to the young man, in order that he might recover the mare, which appeared an object about which he was more solicitous than about his daughter."—*Id.*

THE OXYGEN WHICH SUPPORTS LIFE.—"What becomes of the oxygen which is taken in by man in breathing? G. K."—It is mostly exhaled combined with carbon, the combination keeping up the animal heat. Liebig says:—"In the animal body the food is the fuel; with a proper supply of oxygen we obtain the heat given out during its oxidation or combustion. In winter, when we take exercise on a cold atmosphere, and when consequently the amount of inspired oxygen increases, the necessity for food containing carbon and hydrogen increases in the same ratio; and by gratifying the appetite thus excited, we obtain the most efficient protection against the piercing cold. A starving man is soon frozen to death. The animals of prey in the arctic regions, as every one knows, far exceeds in voracity those of the torrid zone. In cold and temperate climates, the air, which incessantly tries to consume the body, urges man to laborious efforts in order to furnish the means of resistance to its action, while, in hot climates, the necessity of labour to supply food is far less urgent. Our clothing is merely an equivalent for a certain amount of food. The more warmly we are clothed the less urgent becomes the appetite for food, because the loss of heat by cooling,