

AGRICULTURAL.

From the New England Farmer.

SELECTION OF SEEDS PREVENT THE DEGENERACY OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS.

Mr. Editor—An opinion prevails to some extent among some of my acquaintance, that all kinds of agricultural and horticultural seeds are apt to degenerate if they continue to grow from the same original stalk in any one neighbourhood; and that in order to secure good crops of corn, potatoes, and other valuable products of the field and garden, it is necessary to obtain seed which grew at a great distance, from the place where the seed is to be planted. Some of these persons, suppose that if farmer A. living in C., exchanges his seeds with farmer B. living in D., at the distance of one hundred miles from each other, that the exchange will be always mutually beneficial, and will ensure an increase of crops to both.

I could relate to you a number of experiments which demonstrate the fallacy of such a doctrine.

A few years ago I planted turnip seed, which was obtained by selecting the best roots from a very fine crop of turnips, and growing seed from them. The seed from these selected turnips was planted within a few rods of the place where the seed, and the turnips which made the seed, had grown, and this seed produced a fine crop. But not having seed enough I procured some turnip seed from abroad, and planted it in the same manner by the side of the other. When the crop was matured, it was seen that the seed which was obtained from a distance, produced a crop not more than one fourth part as large as that which was grown near the spot where it was planted, and while the latter was remarkably smooth, fair, handsome, and excellent in quality, the crop procured from seed obtained at a distance was rough, and poorer in quality, in about the same proportion that it was smaller in quantity.

About the same time, I made a similar experiment with carrot seeds, and the result was very similar to the experiment with turnips which I have just related.

But as potatoes are thought by some to be peculiarly apt to degenerate, and as it is not easy for every man to make experiments which require more than thirty years for their completion, I send you the following, which you are at liberty to give to the public, through the medium of your useful paper, if you think the narration worth publishing.

When I was a lad 16 years of age, my father obtained a kind of round yellowish potatoes, which was new in the neighbourhood, and was thought at that time to be a superior kind. He planted them, and was much pleased with the result.—He had a larger crop than he had ever obtained before, on the same quantity of ground since my remembrance. He continued to cultivate the same kind of potatoes, for more than 20 years, on the same farm, and they still retained their excellence.

After I became the head of a family, and after my father had cultivated the kind of potatoes of which I am writing, for about fourteen years, I obtained seed from him, and have continued the cultivation of them for 16 years more; from the same original stock, which my father obtained, when I was sixteen years old.

Thus it will be seen, that the 16 years which I have cultivated them, added to the 14 years which my father cultivated them, before I obtained the seed from him, make a period of 30 years, which we have continued the cultivation of the same kind of potatoes, from the same original stock.

I have ever been careful, to select the best part of my crop for seed, and so far from degenerating or running out, as it is termed, some

of my last crops have been handsomer and better, than I have ever seen of the kind before.

Respectfully yours,
Asa M. Holt.

East Holdam, Conn., Aug. 7, 1835.

By the Editor.—The above is from a very respectable medical gentleman from whom future favours of a similar nature are respectfully solicited. We have frequently endeavoured to impress on our readers the importance of selecting the best seeds, roots, &c., for the purpose of raising new crops of the same sorts of vegetables; and given the opinion of practical as well scientific cultivators that it is, generally, better to propagate from the best which a farmer has himself proved and improved than to make hap-hazard exchanges with his brethren at a distance. The rule is, or should be to raise the best you can, and propagate from the best you raise. See New England Farmer, vol. xiii. pp. 30, 62, 311. But examples are better than precepts, and those of Dr. Holt are very pertinent and instructive.

From the same.

MUD FOR MANURE.

If you should find no mines of marl on your premises, worth working, it may be well to direct attention to what a geologist would call alluvial deposits, or the mud found at the bottom of ponds, rivers, creeks, ditches, swamps, &c. Some ponds are totally dried up in a hot and dry summer; and all ponds and rivers are so diminished, by a copious evaporation, as to leave part, and the richest part of their beds uncovered. And these beds, where there has been no rapid current, are always found to contain a rich mud. In some places it reaches to a considerable depth. This mud, though taken from fresh waters, has been found to be a valuable manure, especially for dry, sandy and gravelly soils. It has been known to have as good effect as dung from the barn yard, in the culture of Indian corn on dry and sandy soils. The advantage of mud for manure, is not limited to a single season, for it mends, as it were, the constitution of the soil, and restores to a hill side, or an elevated piece of ground, those fine and fertilizing parts which rains and snows have washed away.

But farmers on the sea coast have great advantages over others as respects the use of mud for manure. The sediment of salt water, which may be taken up along the shores of the sea, contains some fertilizing substances not to be found in fresh water deposits, and abounds more than any other mud with pruned animal substances. If it be taken from flats, where there are or have been shellfish, it is calcareous manure as well as putrescent manure, and answers all the purposes of lime as well as of animal matters taken from farm yards, &c. The best manure, however is obtained from docks, and from the sides of wharves in populous towns, having been rendered richer from sewers, the scourings of streets, &c., as well as refuse animal and vegetable substances fallen or thrown into such places.

Dr. Deane observed, that "Mud that is newly taken up may be laid upon grass land. But if it is to be ploughed into the soil, it should first be exposed to the frost for one winter. The frost will destroy its tenacity, and reduce it to a fine powder; after which, it may be spread like ashes. But if it be ploughed into the soil before it has been mellowed, it will remain in lumps for several years, and be of less advantage."

A layer of mud is an useful ingredient in a compost heap, and should be underlaid and overlaid, or both, with quick-lime or horse-dung, covering the whole with loam or other rich earth. But a still better mode of disposing of all sorts of earthy manures, is to lay

them in farm yards to be thoroughly mixed with the dung and stale of animals; and we believe this mode of management is in most general use by New England Farmers. It requires more labor, and the increased expense of twice carting; but the advantages it affords in absorbing and retaining the stale of cattle, will be more than equivalent to such labor and expense.

SALE OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

THE subscriber offers for sale on very reasonable terms, that excellent corner lot, fronting on Queen and Farm Street, formerly owned by Mr. Adam Gordon, cooper. Also—that one story house, about 26 feet by 16, standing at the east end of the dwelling house of Charles Erskine, and formerly occupied by him as a shop;—the purchaser to remove the house when the owner of the ground requires it.

The subscriber being about to leave the province, is now selling off his stock of Goods, in his shop on Water st., at very reduced prices, and will continue to do so, by private sale, till the 6th of Oct. next, at which time what remains unsold of the above, will be disposed of by Auction.

All those having claims against the subscriber, are desired to present the same for adjustment, on or before the above named day, and those indebted to him are requested to make immediate payment; otherwise their accounts will be put into the hands of an Attorney to collect.

JAMES YOUNG.

Pictou, 8th Sept. 1835. b-w

200 American CHAIRS for Sale by
July 1.] ROSS & PRIMROSE.

TO BE SOLD

At Public Auction, on Thursday the 8th day of October inst., at 11 o'clock, A. M., on the Premises:

WHAT well known farm belonging to the estate of the late Rev'd Duncan Ross, situated on the east side of the West River of Pictou; the same to be sold in two lots, each containing about 70 acres more or less, the front lot subject to the Widow's Dower, the other free of encumbrance. A more particular description will be given at the time of sale.

ALSO—at the same time and place will be sold, Stock to the amount of fifty pounds by appraisement, and a variety of other articles too numerous to mention.

A liberal credit will be given on all sums above ten shillings. Further particulars made known at the time of sale.

JOHN McLEAN, }
JOHN DOUGLAS, } Ex'rs, &c.
JAMES ROSS, }

West River, Sept. 3d, 1835. b-w

UPSET PRICE REDUCED.
MACHINE CARDS.

THE subscriber has on hand two full sets of very superior Machine Cards, on Consignment, and has received orders to offer them at the low price of 7s 6d per foot. If not sold in one month from this date, they are to be sent to St. John, N. B.
September 1. JAS. DAWSON

A IR on cur a mach ann an Gaelic, bho cheanna a ghairid, agus ribh an an rici, le Seumas Dawson leabhar reicidair ann am Pictou.

ALNEAMANA URRAMACH CHRISOID,
Le Ulliam Dyer.

Prish sia Tasdainn ceangailte, na Cuig Tasdan, ann am boidalbh.

Mar an Ceudna,
ORAIN SPIORADAIL,
Le Paudrig Gromit.

Prish tri Tasdain, leth Cheangailte gu greannte.

FUNERAL LETTERS, VISITING, INVITATION and other CARDS,
Executed at this Office in the neatest manner.

D. SPENCE,

BOOK BINDER,

RESPECTFULLY informs the inhabitants of Pictou, that he has commenced business in the above line, in a room below the See Office, where, or at the said Office, BOOKS will be received for binding according to order. [June 29, 1835]

HANDBILLS & BOOK WORK
Done at this Office, in the most handsome style, and at very moderate prices. May, 1836