

GLEANINGS FROM THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS.

Under the above head, we shall collect brevities from all sources, and we request those to whom we are indebted for items, to accept the acknowledgment implied by the word "Gleanings," when more express mention of authorities is not made.

A bed of marl 27 feet thick has been discovered near Vineland, 200 feet below the surface.

In Tennessee they talk of attaching to their Agricultural College a big shop for making all farm tools.

A law is proposed in the Massachusetts Legislature to punish, in heavy penalties, those who sell adulterated manure.

Prairie agriculturists are apt to despise manure. But New Jersey raises one-half more corn to the acre—on the average—than Illinois. Manuring does it.

The Southern Planter and Farmer published in Richmond, Va., gives this test of good farming: every crop is better than the one before, and the profits of the farm increase each year.

Guano, as applied by the best farmers, is a stepping-stone to something better. On worn lands it braces till enough yard manure can be produced. It should be used as an aid to, not as a substitute for, bulky fertilizers.

A correspondent of the *Journal of Agriculture* says he finds his clay loam grounds increase more in productiveness by the use of eight bushels of salt to one bushel of plaster per acre, than from the application of barnyard manure.

Suel Foster, of Iowa, sowed two parts of the same field to wheat. All the conditions of the two were the same except the seed. On one portion very clean, plump, nice wheat, costing \$2.25 per bushel, was used; on the other ordinary wheat, worth \$1.75 to \$1.80 per bushel, was sown. The good seed averaged 53½ bushels per acre; the poorer 18½.

As Mr. Jonathan Brewer, of Gainsboro, was driving to St. Catharines, he met on the road, between St. Catharines and Jordan, a man going in the opposite direction, with a reaping machine. The two sleighs passing very near to each other, a sharp portion of the reaper came in contact with Mr. Brewer's face, inflicting a deep wound on his nose, and almost destroying one of his eyes.

The sprouts of the potato contain an alkaloid, termed by chemists *solanine*, which is very poisonous if taken into the system. This does not exist in the tubers, unless they are exposed to the light and air, which sometimes occurs from the accidental removal of the earth in cultivation. A potato that shows a blackish-green tint on the one side should never be cooked for the table or fed to stock. So says *Hearth and Home*.

The *Farmer* (Scottish) says:—Mr. Mechi has some misgivings respecting the next wheat crop, and quotes the opinion of old men who believe that a full moon at Christmas implies light sheaves at harvest, as well as that of a practical farmer who "never knew an abundant wheat harvest to follow a mild winter."

Donald G. Mitchell, *apropos* of good drainage, says that "big barns, and big walls, and steam-engines, and bulls with pedigrees are by no means essential to great crops; but a good, friable condition of the soil is; and if a man cannot secure this with the labor and capital at his command upon fifty acres, let him sell and try twenty-five; if he cannot secure it on twenty-five, let him sell, and try it on ten; if he cannot secure it on ten, let him off with his coat, take to the spade, and make a farm out of his garden."

PERUVIAN GUANO.—It is officially intimated that Peruvian guano has been found at thirty-five places on the mainland and islands of Peru, independent of the other localities well-known before. Accurate surveys are ordered, as in the case of the Maccabe, Gunapo, and Lobos. One place is estimated to contain 3,000,000 tons, situated near the River Loar.

The Live Stock.

SPRING SHOW OF THE ONTARIO POULTRY ASSOCIATION.

The above Society, inaugurated in the latter part of 1866, for the improvement of the different breeds of Poultry and Pigeons, have announced their intention of holding their fourth Exhibition in April next, as may be seen on reference to our advertising column. The prize list which we subjoin is both varied and extensive, the aggregate amount offered being \$173. Three Exhibitions have already been held under the auspices of the Association, each one of which excelled its predecessor in number of entries made and excellence of the specimens shown, and it is confidently expected that the coming show will in this respect far surpass any of the previous ones, as it is known that several fanciers have during the past year largely imported specimens of the rarer breeds, and several orders yet unfilled are expected to arrive in time for the Exhibition. Since the formation of this Society, a great impetus has been given to the raising and breeding of Poultry in this country, and it is highly gratifying to its promoters to know that their efforts have been so successful. Many persons heretofore indifferent to such matters have recently become fowl fanciers and breeders, not