

it is capable of?—Fifty tons of turnips, I have been informed, have been raised from one statute acre, and valuing these at one shilling per hundred—which would not be overreaching the mark,—gives us the handsome sum of fifty pounds worth from that one acre. This seems almost incredible, and would no doubt be ridiculed as a fable, by some of our backwoodsmen, who never saw, or perhaps never heard of, a model farm—but if doubted by any present, it can be corroborated by one of our members, whose privilege it was to see the crop growing.

When our Canadian farmers can compete with this, or come up any thing near to it, which I have no doubt at all they may—as it is freely admitted on all hands, that the soil of Canada, as far as regards its natural capabilities, its principles and component parts, cannot be surpassed by any other under the sun.—I say when our farmers have got their fields to such a state of cultivation as this, by draining, by subsoiling, by manuring, &c., all of which we will be taught hereafter, by those who can do the subjects justice—can handle them the right way—then I will say, our farmers have made a big step towards my subject.—The best mode of farming. Now Sir, as I said before, my subject is so extensive, it will not be expected for a moment, that I could attempt to give even a passing glance at all the various subjects involved in it—in fact volumes have been written on it, and still they may be multiplied—new fields of investigation are continually being opened up to the gaze and astonishment of a wondering man, by the scientific investigator, and none will dispute the acquisition that science has been to art in agriculture, as well as in other departments—although I would say most decidedly practice must always take the lead, and science follow in its train. Sometimes indeed, science, falsely so called, for it did not deserve the name, has advanced the most ridiculous and absurd theories—but, as I said before, it was not science or scientific men, but some would-be clever fellows for speculation, or else to exhibit ignorance.

I will now for a short time allude to a few of the more important subjects which demand the farmer's knowledge and attention, if he would be in the proper sense of the word, a successful farmer; and in the first place he should be acquainted with the nature of the soil, he tills—should know what kind of crops it is best calculated to produce, as it is a well known fact, that all soils will not produce the same kind of crop with equal success—he should understand what principle is absent from the soil that would be necessary to produce a good crop of a certain kind, he should also be acquainted with the best, cheapest and most efficient means of restoring such a principle or element to the soil either in the form of artificial manures or otherwise. He should also know how to improve the different qualities or kinds of soil that may be in his farm, as very frequently we meet with various qualities of soil on our farms. From a want of knowledge of this kind manure is often injudiciously and wastefully applied. But it may be asked, where can a knowledge of this kind be obtained. I answer, from standard works on Agricultural Chemistry—such as John-son's, Leibig's, &c.

The farmer ought also to divide his farm, according to the quantity of land, I should say cleared land, he occupies, into such a number of fields as will be suitable for a regular rotation of the kind of crops he intends to cultivate; he should also pay particular attention to the kind of fences he makes, and endeavor to make those which will be most lasting and most easily repaired or renewed when they begin to decay; it is no inconsiderable expense, especially when timber is dear as it is now even in this place, to make new fences for the most part on a farm. I have lately read a plan or two recommended in fencing, which I will submit, it may perhaps lead to some beneficial conversation on this important point. One plan is in board fences, to bore an augur hole in the post in a sloping direction inwards and downwards for about two inches, just where the post will come in contact with the surface of the ground—or as the sailor would say, between wind and water—fill this hole with salt, which is said to be a great preservative of wood. It is recommended to steep the posts in sea water some time previous to putting in the ground; but as that would be rather inconvenient in this locality, perhaps the salt will answer the same purpose, at all events it would be worth while making the experiment, as it would not be very laborious or expensive, and would well repay the trouble if the posts lasted 5 or 10 years longer than they otherwise would have done.

It is also asserted by Mr. Preston, of Stockport, Pen., that if the posts be put with their tops in the ground, they will last three or four times as long as when they are put with the butt ends down. He also advises in making rail fences to place the heart side up. Some farmers cut their posts so long and mortise them in such a manner that when the lower end becomes rotten they can turn them upside down. I think this economical and good. I have read of a fence made in the following way which might answer well for line fences or fences along roads: A row of butternut trees were planted, and notches cut in them a few inches apart, as high as the fence would be required, rails were fastened in these notches from tree to tree, in time the wood of the tree grew around the rail in such a manner as to bind it firmly—no fear of it dropping out—and I am sure the posts would not readily rot. I consider this a durable fence. Might not pine or any other tree answer as well as butternut? So much for fencing; but, perhaps, I am treading on forbidden ground, however my subject embraces all the others, and therefore I consider myself at liberty to make a passing remark or two on any topic that claims my attention, more particularly as there is still abundant scope in reserve, in fact these subjects are so spacious as almost to be inexhaustible.

Farmers should also attend to draining their land in all cases where it is required, and practicable. Superfluous water resting on land always prevents and retards vegetation. Deepening should also be attended to, as it will stir up a quantity of subsoil which in a great part contains the inorganic food of plants, and also permits the roots to go deeper, and therefore they have a greater space to draw nourishment from. Stumps