

up by mulch, or some absorbent substance thrown into it, or else carried out in a water cart, and sprinkled over a soil that needs it.

Water that runs from compost dung hills. This should be thrown back upon dung hills, or else used as the preceding article.

Liquors from dye houses. This should be used in composts.

Sea water, which contains other things beside water and salt, fit to nourish vegetables. It may be sprinkled on land, or used in composts.

After all I may add *Salt*, being distinct from all other manures, an important ingredient in the food of plants, and adapted to prepare other ingredients. Some apply it as it is, but it has a better effect when used in composts.

If our farmers in general would be persuaded to avail themselves of so many of these manures as fall in their way, or can be easily obtained, we should no longer hear so many dismal complaints as we do, of short crops, and worn out lands. The face of the country would soon be surprisingly improved.

But that manures may fully answer their intention, they must be judiciously applied. We should not only apply each manure to the soil for which it is most suitable, but at seasons when it will produce the most valuable effect. For a general rule, it is best to apply those rich fermenting manures which are to be mixed in the soil, as near as may be to the time when the ground is seeded. Dung should be ploughed in with the seed harrow, as it is called.—Composts may be harrowed in with the seed. The reason for applying these manures at this time is obvious. They will begin to raise a fermentation in the soil, almost as as soon as they are applied; so that if there be no seed, nor plants to be nourished by them, some part of the good

effect of the manure will be lost. As part of the fermentation will be past, before plants begin to grow; so there may be danger of its being over, before they have attained to their full growth. If so, the soil will harden, and the plants will receive the least quantity of nourishment at the time when they need the greatest.

As to these manures which raise little or no fermentation, they may be laid on at any time when the farmer has leisure for it, as sand on a clayey, gravel on a boggy puffy soil; or clay, marle, or mud, on a light soil.

It has been too much practised in this country, to apply scanty dressings to lands in tillage, hardly sufficient to have any perceptible effect, and to repeat it year after year. But this I think is a wrong practice. A sufficient dressing once in two years, I have always found to do better than half a dressing each year. This last method does not so well agree with a succession of crops; because some crops require a much greater degree of strength in the soil than others do. Let us then follow the example of European farmers, who commonly manure very plentifully once in the course of crops, and no more; and the year the manure is laid on, take a crop that requires the greatest assistance from manure, or that bears manuring best, or makes the best returns for manures. Afterwards, crops that need less manure, till the end of the course. Perhaps the year of manuring in this country should be chiefly for Indian corn. This crop is not easily overcome with manure, and it pays well for high manuring. And this happens well for us, as a hoed crop, when the dung is used, will prevent the increase of weeds, which a plentiful dunging will greatly promote in every kind of soil.

AN ACCOUNT of the STATE and PROSPECTS of the COLONIES in NEW SOUTH WALES and NORFOLK ISLAND, at the Commencement of the Year 1790.

(Concluded from page 394.)

NUMBER III.

Sydney Cove, April 11th, 1790.

THE quantity of flour brought from the Cape of Good Hope, by the *Silius*, was less than I expected; four months flour only for the settlement, and a year's provisions for the ship's company; and it

was necessary to give the ship a very considerable repair before she could be sent to sea again, which was not completed before the middle of January; when I had reason to expect ships from England in the course of a few weeks. The sending to the islands would have answered, as far as procuring live stock to breed from, but which