

In point of agricultural importance, no circumstance belonging to the present century is more entitled to deep consideration, than this brilliant, yet sound instance of tentative husbandry; nevertheless, in order to appreciate its true practical value, it is necessary to bear in mind, that as respects the happy combination of operative details of which it is made up, it consists of no principle or expedient in cultivation which had not been known before. As an example of cereal productiveness, procured without the intervention of cattle crops, what other unaltered system than this prevailed in England, when, prior to the introduction of roots and clover in rotation, she not only fed her own population with corn, but exported it largely to foreign parts? Nay more—what other than this, is the still existing policy in the cereal countries of continental Europe, which now so largely provide England with breadstuffs. As for the *interculture* of the Lois Weedon method, admirable and efficient as the expedient is, it can be regarded simply as an adaptation to corn tillage of that method of drill husbandry hitherto confined in general practice to the fallow crops only; while finally, the deep working, if not so generally prevalent as it ought to be, has long existed in many of the best-farmed districts of the island.

Now, the moral we wish to point out, in the foregoing statement, is this—that, from the case where, under sunny skies, and on a rich soil, the lazy husbandman has only to scratch with a little covering of earth over his corn seed to produce an abundant crop, up to the elaborate process of Lois Weedon experience, there is every variety and degree of evidence to show that wheat or any other kind of grain can profitably be raised by the power of tillage alone, and that the use of manures, whether obtained from the cattle crops of modern rotation husbandry, or from external resources, is not indispensably necessary to profitable cereal husbandry. Nay, more—from the practice of all nations it is deducible, that in proportion (within certain bounds) to the greater depth to which a soil is stirred, and to the perfect annual tillage it receives, the produce of that soil will be more abundant.

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REFUSE TAN, OR SPENT BARK.

This article can be had at almost every village without money, or for a mere trifle in the way of compensation. In some instances the tanner would be glad to have it taken away. The question has been asked by one whose teams returned, from an adjacent village, empty, a great times in a year, "Would it be worth the time of loading and unloading to stop at the tannery and get a load of spent bark, now and then?" Our answer was a pretty confident yes, and the following were the principal reasons alleged in support of it:

1. Among the various *uses* of refuse tan, none, perhaps, is so generally known as its power to absorb the urine or other liquids of stables or yards. A considerable amount of fertilizing matter may thus be saved by using tan as bedding for hogs, for cattle and cows, and for horses, or even perhaps in sheep-yards and under sheep-sheds. In the volumes of the *CO. GENT. and CULTIVATOR*, 1853, Mr. G. W. DURANT gives some account of his manner of using tan bark as an absorbent, and as litter for various kinds of stock. He says that he has been in the habit of employing about one hundred loads in this way every year. In the beginning of summer, for example, he puts a load or two in his hog-yard, and when that is used up (thoroughly saturated,) he puts in more, making his yard so tight that no liquid can escape. All along until winter he endeavors to keep his hogs dry by filling in fresh tan-bark. He lets these yards be undisturbed until spring, when he carts out the manure thus made on his corn ground. "It has all the