Technical and Bibliographic Notes / Notes techniques et bibliographiques

The Institute has attempted to obtain the best original copy available for filming. Features of this copy which may be bibliographically unique, which may alter any of the images in the reproduction, or which may significantly change the usual method of filming, are checked below.

L'Institut a microfilmé le meilleur exemplaire qu'il lui a été possible de se procurer. Les détails de cet exemplaire qui sont peut-être uniques du point de vue bibliographique, qui peuvent modifier une image reproduite, ou qui peuvent exiger une modification dans la méthode normale de filmage sont indiqués ci-dessous.

- ☐ Coloured covers/ Couverture de couleur
- ☐ Covers damaged/ Couverture endommagée
- ☐ Covers restored and/or laminated/ Couverture restaurée et/ou pelliculée
- ☐ Cover title missing/ Le titre de couverture manque
- ☐ Coloured maps/ Cartes géographiques en couleur
- ☐ Coloured ink (i.e. other than blue or black)/ Encre de couleur (i.e. autre que bleue ou noire)
- ☐ Coloured plates and/or illustrations/ Planches et/ou illustrations en couleur
- ☑ Bound with other material/ Relié avec d'autres documents
- ☑ Tight binding may cause shadows or distortion along interior margin/ La reliure serrée peut causer de l'ombre ou de la distorsion le long de la marge intérieure
- ☐ Blank leaves added during restoration may appear within the text. Whenever possible, these have been omitted from filming/ Il se peut que certaines pages blanches ajoutées lors d'une restauration apparaissent dans le texte, mais, lorsque cela était possible, ces pages n'ont pas été filmées.

- ☐ Coloured pages/ Pages de couleur
- ☐ Pages damaged/ Pages endommagées
- ☐ Pages restored and/or laminated/ Pages restaurées et/ou pelliculées
- ☑ Pages discoloured, stained or foxed/ Pages décolorées, tachetées ou piquées
- ☐ Pages detached/ Pages détachées
- ☑ Showthrough/ Transparence
- ☑ Quality of print varies/ Qualité inégale de l'impression
- ☐ Continuous pagination/ Pagination continue
- ☐ Includes index(es)/ Comprend un (des) index

Title on header taken from:/ Le titre de l'en-tête provient:

- ☐ Title page of issue/ Page de titre de la livraison
- ☐ Caption of issue/ Titre de départ de la livraison
- ☐ Masthead/ Générique (périodiques) de la livraison

☐ Additional comments:/ Commentaires supplémentaires:

This item is filmed at the reduction ratio checked below/ Ce document est filmé au taux de réduction indiqué ci-dessous.

10X	12X	14X	16X	18X	20X	22X	24X	26X	28X	30X	32X
							✓				

THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK, AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

VOL. 3. HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 1, 1843. NO. 1.

THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 1, 1843.

GRASS LAND MAKES A GOOD SOIL FOR A GARDEN.

The best soil for a garden is sand, the worst, clay. Slate gravel nearly as warm a soil as sand, but is greatly affected by drought. It will, by long cultivation and manuring, finally become clayey, the slate being decomposed by the manure. A soil that is too stiff and clayey will be greatly helped by limestone gravel or broken oyster shells. Sand will have little effect upon clay except very great quantities are used, but a very little clay will improve a soil that is too sandy. Land that was lately in grass always gives the best crops of vegetables, as the turf that is partly decayed keeps the soil loose and enables it to resist the effects, both of too much and too little rain. The insects also which injure the crops in an old garden, will be much diminished by laying down the land to grass. If a piece of ground so situated that it could be conveniently ploughed, were divided into two equal parts, one of which could be sowed with clover and grass-seed, and the other occupied with garden vegetables, the grass might, after mowing it for three years, be ploughed, and a crop of potatoes raised in its place, and the following season, this might be the garden, and the old garden might in its turn be sowed with grass. That part of a garden occupied with fruit trees and bushes, flower roots, &c., as it can be conveniently be improved by sowing it with grass, should occasionally be manured with a compost made by mixing a little stable manure with a large quantity of sods from an old pasture, or the sides of roads. Where it is cheap, unslacked lime may be substituted for dung in forming the compost heap.

While there is a considerable quantity of grass roots partly decayed in the soil it will not become close and hard, but remain in a loose, mellow state, and while it allows a free passage to superfluous water, it also allows roots to strike deep, and is capable of resisting the effects of drought for a long time. It is partly for this reason that Mr. Buckmaster's method of renewing grass land by ploughing, rolling, and harrowing, and sowing grass seed as soon as the hay is taken off, has proved so successful.

A hard; dry, gravelly soil, generally, should not be mowed more than three years, before it is ploughed again, for it can rarely be made to bear a good crop in dry seasons after all the decaying turf is exhausted; but some moist soils appear to succeed very well for a long time by top dressing the grass frequently. Visible insects, or what are called blights, affect our crops most when in an unhealthy state, and one frequent cause of their being in such a state is the hardness of the soil about the roots, which often causes plants to suffer, when those that are in mellow ground are thriving, having received no injury from the heavy rain or drought which had checked the growth of those on the hard compact soil.

SOWING GRASS SEED.

Grass seed is generally covered too deep. If sowed with grain and harrowed in, far the greater part is lost. A light harrow which has the teeth driven fully up to the head, will cover it tolerably by drawing it over the ground with the teeth uppermost. Should the ground contain many clods, go over it before sowing the grass seed, with the harrow, (teeth uppermost,) which will smooth the surface; then sow and go over it again. Should the ground adjoin grassland, sow clover pretty thick for the breadth of a rod from the grass, for it may be expected that the Timothy will there be mostly cut off by the Froghoppers, unless it should be sowed very early.

Experiennce alone can determine the quantity of seed necessary in different soils and situations. We have found that two quarts of Timothy seed was fully sufficient for an acre on land when first cleared of wood, in a situation remote from all cultivated ground; but after a number of acres had been laid down to grass, the insects bred in the mowing ground always destroyed a part of the young grass sowed upon the adjoining pieces that were cleared. Of these insects the green Froghopper is the most destructive, but it does not attack the young clover, nor does it do great injury to Timothy that is sowed very early so that it may have formed three leaves before the insect appears, as it will if bitten off, in that case, sprout again, but if the first leaf be cut off before others are formed, the plant perishes.

LOCK JAW IN A HORSE.

"A spirited mare had been worked in the forenoon, and much abused by a thoughtless driver. The marks of several severe strokes appeared, and it was believed that some nerves had been injured. A lock jaw ensued in the afternoon, attended with stiffness in her limbs, unnatural distension of her nostrils, and spasmodic affections of her cheeks, neck, sides and flanks, which produced a powerful commotion in those parts. Her jaws were firmly clinched—she was very restless, often laying down and rising, and incapable of swallowing though very desirous to drink. Every assistance that could be devised was carefully administered till the forenoon of the ensuing day, when she became incapable of rising, and appeared to be in the agonies of death. However, to get rid of, what I then thought, the useless importunity of one of my family, Dr. Dewees was consulted. He observed, Dr. Rush had informed him that he had cured a horse of lock jaw by dashing cold water plentifully over him; and he advised that this should be done. With the assistance of several men the mare was set on her feet, and conducted to a well near at hand, and thirty or forty buckets full of cold water dashed over her head and body with all possible dispatch. But little if any good effect appeared. In about two hours, or perhaps less, the bathing was repeated, and it was thought that the clinching of the jaws was a little relaxed.

This gave encouragement to try a third, and before it was finished she began to bite the grass near her, although she was unable to chew and swallow it. A fourth bathing enabled her to eat, and the next day she appeared to be well, but rather thin and hollow. It is now more than three years since this happened, and the mare has been as healthy and active as she was before. During the intervals of the baths, and for two or three days after, she was covered with a blanket, but was not put in a stable."—*Lorain.*

IMPLEMENTS.

Hoes.—The edge of a Hoe is on the upper side, which ought always to be hard steel; but many have the steel beneath like adzes, and consequently have the part where the edge should be, always dull and rolled back.

Duckbill Coulter, for stoney land.—The bottom of this should be very hard steel. If the steel be placed in the middle with iron below it, one day's work will form such a bevil that the plough will not work well.

The bottom of the point and cutting edge of the share should also be hard steel.

Ransomes plough, which is much esteemed in one part of England, has the share made of soft iron; the under side being case hardened to the temper of steel, which causes it to wear to a thin cutting edge. This practice would probably be preferable to steeling the share, were it not for the frequency with which the case hardening must be repeated. It is nearly the mechanism of the cutting teeth of the Beaver and Porcupine, which being very hard in front, and growing gradually softer to the back part, always carry so fine an edge that a pen can be made with one of them.

IRRIGATION.

There are many books running down hills occupied either as pasture or mowing land, where, with very little labour a part or all the water could be turned off in small channels to the right and left, and made to spread over the face of the hill. In many places the grass could by this means be greatly increased. The best water is that which has received the wash of cultivated land; the least valuable that which has passed over vitriolic slate; but we have seen a large crop of hay produced by water that was never muddy. We have known a field of seven acres in a sandy district, from which two heavy crops were annually mowed, and the hay all sold, as the owner, who was an old bachelor, kept no cattle; as the ground had but little stone, he spread the brook over the field in a multitude of little channels not more than six inches broad, and whenever it rained in summer the old man might be seen regulating the water in his little rills. In wet seasons it was not allowed to remain but a few days at a time. No other manure was applied to the land, but it was not pastured. This brook however was muddy in heavy showers. Where small brooks empty into wild meadows, the grass may be much increased by turning them out of their channels and throwing the water upon the grass, in summer.

Many wild or natural meadows have been greatly injured by burning them over in the spring, and some have been damaged by lowering the bed of the brook, by which they have been left too dry for the natural grass. To these it would be a great advantage to lay them under water for six weeks in the spring, by making a dam at the outlet of the brook from the meadow. Many such dams have been made for the sake of introducing the Fowl meadow grass, and, where the brook was large, were sometimes used to water the meadows in a dry season.

In pastures where a little water from a brook is spread over the face of a hill, the feed is always more early in the spring than upon land not watered; and for this reason, in England, some level meadows have been thrown into artificial hills at an expense exceeding £12 ℔ acre, for the purpose of feeding early lambs which always sold for an extra price. It is estimated in England, that by the help of water good feed can be produced a month before the usual time, but it is always necessary to have the water under command, so that it can be turned off at any time, as upland grasses may be injured by allowing the water to remain too long.

AMERICAN FESCUE GRASS.

This grass is always found on the best dyke lands together with the native Couch, but being much earlier than the Couch it is frequently dead ripe, when mowed, and having shed its seed is no better than straw. Where therefore it forms one third of the crop it should be mowed before the seed is ripe, although the Couch grass may not be fully grown, as the Clover will require mowing at the same time, and we have little rich dry land in grass that does not contain a portion of the small early Clover. The Crowfoot or Butter cup, which abounds in many fields, also requires mowing as early as the Fescue grass when it makes excellent hay, but at the time that the Timothy is out of blossom it is of little value.

The Fescue grass might answer well to sow with clover on some soils which seem to have "tired" of Timothy; it yields a large quantity of aftergrass which is very distinguishable by its bright green leaves; and it is never injured by the severity of winter; the seed is large, and generally ripens in July.

The Couch is a native plant of our sea shores, and appears to be a large variety of the European species from which it differs in having a greater number of flowers in the small seed spikes. This and the Fescue grass are by far the most valuable of our native grasses.

Swine are less capable of resisting the extremities of heat and cold than our other domestic animals. When running at large they will provide suitable shelter for themselves, but when confined in pens they often suffer so much as to materially affect their thriving. An under-ground shelter made as below described has been found to suit them well both in hot and cold weather.

Let a pen be made on a hill side, and without, but adjoining the upper side of the pen, dig a hole of a suitable size about thirty inches deep, cover it with pickets, brush and sods, and then with the earth that was thrown out, after which a sloping entrance from the pen may be formed to allow them to pass under the fence and some litter thrown in. However muddy the pen may be they will keep the shelter dry, and will generally remain in it in the hottest part of the day, as well as in very cold weather.

The Sedge grass of natural meadows generally retains its green colour long after it has become almost juiceless. It ought always to be mowed before the month of September. If the meadow is so poor that it cannot bear early mowing, it is much better to mow it every other year, than to starve cattle by feeding them on worthless hay. When grass is left on the ground for the purpose of improving the crop, it must not be burnt off next spring. Fire will soon ruin a natural meadow.

BACKWOODS MEN.

"Since I removed to the backwoods where such farmers are more especially plenty, I have had a better opportunity of obs

ving their talents, and must confess that I have found them much more respectable than I formerly believed them to be. They will quickly build an ark of very considerable burden, without a particle of iron or an inch of cordage; and in the time of a freshet, when the waters are pouring down our rivers and creeks with astonishing velocity, they will with great dexterity and intrepidity, conduct this vessel through waterfalls. They will patiently encounter a long and fatiguing journey back on foot, heavily laden with necessaries for their families. Thus they become travellers; and as rubbing through the world generally sharpens a man's wit, they return home much better informed, having seen and heard much by the way: likewise become well versed in barter, purchase and sale. These men, with no other tools than a common axe, auger, and pocket knife, will, with astonishing expedition, build a tight and comfortable dwelling house, or convenient barn, without a single nail or a particle of iron. The floors strong and well formed, the doors conveniently hung; and decent sashes for the windows, first roughed out with the axe, and then finished with the pocket knife. Such household furniture as answers their purposes is also made with the same tools. So are their implements for husbandry, except the iron work, which is also made by some of them, and there are but few who cannot make the shoes worn by their family. The dexterous use of the rifle furnishes most of the meat that is eaten by them. They dress the skins of the deer, and often, without either needle, silk or thread, make well looking pantaloons of them, and when money is scarce, some other parts of their dress is also formed of them. They will scald and clean a hog without either pot, kettle, or any other fireproof utensil. In fact these men generally come into the backwoods exceedingly poor. They seldom have more money than will pay their expenses on the road, and often do not bring more than a horse and cow with them; therefore are commonly much better stocked with young helpless children, than they are with cattle: consequently they are compelled to exercise those talents which nature distributes without partiality, or starve."—*Lorain.*

A number of Novascotians have lately started to hunt for fortune on the Prairies of the far West, the land of cheap bread, meat, and agues. We would recommend to those who feel disposed to follow them, to reflect a little on their own ability of living where they *must* supply all their wants by the labour of their own hands, as they will generally find that all the *money* that they can procure will be absorbed by taxes, salt, and iron work. No man who has his living to earn by his labour should remove to a country where he must raise Pork for 7s. 6d. the hundredweight, and Indian Corn for 7½d. the bushel, unless he is able and willing to live like the Backwoods men described by Mr. Lorrain: as otherwise when dunned for his taxes, he will be turning a longing look towards the country where a poor labourer gets 2s 6d or 3s in hard cash for his day's work, and heartily wishing he had never left it. Implicit faith should not be placed in letters written by acquaintances who have removed to new countries; they are sometimes dictated by the same spirit that leads the young recruit to endeavour to enlist his old friends,—the wish to convince himself that he is not the greatest fool on earth. There are men who rather court than fear danger, difficulty, and privations; they are the proper persons to settle in these remote districts; but most men, in such situations, would be discontented and miserable.

HOE VERY FREQUENTLY IN DRY WEATHER.

In very dry weather the soil should be very often stirred, and as deeply as the plants can bear. Some who have had but little experience assert that stirring the soil, by bringing the moist earth to the surface will increase the dryness; but this theory, although plausible, is perfectly false when applied to land under a crop. Indian Corn which had the leaves curled with drought, has been made to thrive again by ploughing deeply between the rows, notwithstanding that a number of roots must have been cut by the ploughing. Plants can take water from the air when it is allowed to reach their roots by keeping the soil very loose. In a very dry season a piece of dry gravelly ground from which a crop of early peas had been taken, was broken up fourteen inches deep, early in August, and sowed with turnips which were several times hoed, and produced a good crop, not appearing at all affected by the drought which continued for several weeks after they were sowed, and checked the growth of every thing near them; but the ground being kept mellow between the drills was always moister than the hard ground about it, even close to the surface, while the looseness of the soil enabled the roots of the turnips to strike deep. We have seen an observation of the celebrated Mr. Coke, (Earl of Leicester) "That the more frequently he stirred the soil among his turnips in dry weather, the better they grew." And it is well known that the great farm which he rendered so very fertile, was when he commenced upon it, a dry barren sand.

From the Farmer's Gazette.

Josiah Quincy, President of Harvard College, has one of the finest farms in the vicinity of Boston. It is extensive and surrounded by a flourishing hawthorn hedge, but there is not an interior fence on the premises; the whole presents a single field devoted to the various purposes of agriculture. No part of it is allotted to pasture, properly speaking, as his cattle are fed in their stalls and never suffered to roam over the fields—and the advantages of his system are thus given: formerly there were seven miles of interior fences to be kept in repair, but by keeping his cattle up the whole of this expense is saved. Formerly sixty acres of this farm were devoted to pasture; but now a greater number of cattle by one third are kept on the products of twenty acres, and the cattle are in the best condition.

The saving by these means is enormous, and the immense advantages arising from it are too apparent to need to be dwelt upon. During the summer the cattle are fed upon grass, green oats or barley, cut the day before and suffered to wilt in the sun, but the manure which is thus saved will more than pay the extra expense and trouble. The farm is most highly cultivated, and every kind of grain and vegetable has a place.

Royal Ag. Society of England.—This Society has now 7,270 members, of which 101 are denominated life governors, who pay $250 each—206 annual governors, who pay $25 annually—399 life members who pay $50 each—6 551 annual members, who pay $5 per annum. Its receipts in the three years of its existence have so far exceeded its expenses that the Society has invested about $35,000, the interest of which now forms a part of its permanent income. The Fair of this Society, for this year, is to be held at Derby, commencing on the 11th of this month.—*Cult.*

Irish Ag. Society.—Following the example of England, a National Ag. Society was formed in Ireland in 1841, since which no less than 83 auxiliary or district Societies have been organized, all of which appear to be in a prosperous condition, and exerting a highly salutary influence upon the agricultural interest of that country.—*Ib.*

Selected.

THE GOOD OLD FARMER AND HIS WIFE.

I once knew a ploughman, Bob Fletcher his name,
He was old and was hearty, and so was his dame;
And they liv'd quite contented, and free from all strife,
Bob Fletcher the ploughman, and Judy, his wife.

As the morn streak'd the east, and the night fled away,
They would rise up to labor, refreshed for the day;
But the song of the lark as it rose on the gale,
Found Bob at the plough, and his wife at the pail.

A neat little cottage in front of a grove,
Where in youth they gave up their young hearts to love,
Was the solace of age; and to them doubly dear,
As it call'd up the past with a smile or a tear.

Each tree has its thought, and the vow could impart,
That mingled in youth the warm wish of the heart;
The thorn was still there, and the blossoms it bore,
And the song from its top seem'd the same as before.

When the curtain of night over nature was spread,
And Bob had return'd from the plough to his shed,
Like a dove on her nest he reposed from all care,
If his wife and his youngsters contented were there.

I have pass'd by the door when the ev'ning was grey,
And the hill and the landscape were fading away;
And heard from the cottage with grateful surprise,
The voice of thanksgiving like incense arise.

And I thought of the proud, who would look down with scorn,
On the neat little cottage, the grove and the thorn,
And felt that the riches and follies of life,
Were dross to contentment, like Bob and his wife.

From the Boston Cultivator.

HORSE RAKE.

We will describe a cheap rake, which works well, and which most any farmer may make in a short time. Make a beam nine or ten feet long—ten for smooth lands—and about three inches square of strong seasoned wood—ash is preferable, as it is strong and light. Into this put teeth of tough wood about 20 inches long, one inch wide, and one and a half inches deep where they enter the beam, and one inch at the forward end, which at this end should be cut away to a point, that they may more readily rise over whatever they strike. At the beam there should be a small shoulder.

The teeth should be about five or six inches apart, according to the fineness of the grass.

The beam and teeth thus formed, lay horizontally on the ground. Handles are put into the beams with tenons, and bending down at the ends like plough handles. Rounds should pass through them to keep them steady, and support the hay, especially when cocking up. On each side the handles are four or five upright standards about fifteen or eighteen inches long, and one inch in diameter which holds the hay as the rake passes along under it.

The traces are fastened to each end of the beam, by passing through and tying a knot. So when all is ready, hitch on old Nimrod and go a head, allowing the rake to run with ease on the ground, and freeing it from impediments when it meets them. When the rake is full, or has enough on it for a winrow, back the horse a little, draw out the rake, lift it over the hay, and go on again.

With a good horse rake on smooth land, six acres may be raked in the time required for a man to rake one acre. This is not only an important advantage in the saving of labor, but sometimes it prevents a great loss of hay by enabling a farmer to secure it when dry, before a storm. In this way some have saved the value of a rake in a single day, for which they paid ten dollars. It frequently happens that there is but a short time to secure hay after it is dry enough, therefore it is best to be prepared to save hay while the sun shines.

EXTRAORDINARY FARM PRODUCE.

A valued friend in London has forwarded to us the British Farmer's Magazine, for January, 1843. We take from it the following article, which it credits to the Northern Whig.

Farmer's Cabinet.

"Perhaps the most successful example of the capabilities of land, under proper management, in Ireland, and of the immense crops which can be raised, may be seen on the National Model Farm, under the Board of Education at Glasnevin, near Dublin. This farm, strictly conducted on the improved system of green-cropping and house-feeding, contains 52 statute acres, and there is kept on it during the year, 22 head of cattle and three horses. It supplies on an average, ninety persons during the year with farm produce, such as milk, butter, potatoes, and vegetables of various kinds; and furnishes the farming establishment with pork, besides a number of private families with the above articles. A considerable quantity of vegetables are carried to Market, and all kinds of grain, which is abundant. There is at present a crop of oats upon the farm, the produce of 14½ British acres. It is secured in eight stacks, and is estimated by the best judges to be equal to the average produce of 50 acres. It stood perfectly close upon the ground, average 6 to 7½ feet in height, the head and ear corresponding; the other crops, potatoes, turnips, Italian rye-grass, &c., of like quality. The manager conducts the farm on his own account; pays £257 7s. 8d. per annum, of rent, besides other expenses amounting in all, to upwards of £400 per year; and we are informed, and believe, that he realizes a very handsome annual sum from it besides. He labors and manages it almost exclusively by a number of boys, agricultural pupils and teachers, who are there in training in the science and practice of agriculture. As a test of what land is capable of producing, when brought to its highest point, there are few examples so appropriate as we have in this particular instance; there are perhaps more crops raised, more cattle kept and fed, more human beings supplied with the common necessaries of life, more manure accumulated, more employment given, and in fact, more *money made* on this spot of land than on any other farm of the same extent, (conducted on a proper scientific rotation of grain and green crop,) in any part of the empire, *or the world.* Did the average land of Ireland produce only one half of the value, according to quantity, that is on this model farm, we should hear no more of corn laws, tariffs, or want of employment amongst the people."

LAND IN SIGHT.

We believe that there has not been a time, since the general tumble down of prices, and the consequent agricultural distress, when the prospect of relief was so fair as at present. Farmers have been gradually but certainly, surmounting their difficulties, and

already they begin to breathe more freely. Driven to retrenchment and economy, what at first seemed an evil, is found to have been a positive good to all classes of society; and if the severe lessons taught have their proper effect, we shall find many days of prosperity are yet before us. Debts heedlessly contracted and without any rational expectations of meeting them, were the great cause of our personal or individual difficulties. The farmer has been slowly working his way out of these; and now better prices for his produce is coming to his aid, to complete the work. We would not intimate that the prices of 1837 are to be expected. They ought not to be desired, as they are inconsistent with a healthy and safe condition of things: but every thing indicates a gradual restoration of confidence, and prices that will be remunerating. We now as a nation sell more than we buy; our manufactories are getting into successful operation; new markets are opening for our agricultural products; specie instead of gewgaws is flowing in upon us; money is becoming plenty for those who have anything to purchase it with; and there is a general feeling that the "dark day" is at last passed. We have only to avoid the errors of the past; to see our way clear before us; and as a nation or as individuals to purchase nothing we do not need, and pay down for what we do purchase, and we may reasonably hope, that if we do not become rich, we shall not be obliged to incur the disgrace of repudiation.

From the Albany Cultivator.

PIGEON ROOSTS.—One of those curiosities is now to be seen in the vicinity of Granville. It covers (as I was informed) an extent of some square miles, and is occupied by millions of pigeons. They congregate in such immense masses as to spoil the heaviest timber, breaking down the largest limbs. Some people go to the roost and kill them for mere wanton sport. They feed on the beech nuts, and are very fat. They stick one end of a long limber pole in the ground, and as the pigeons come into the roost, they swing it swiftly backwards and forwards, cutting down hundreds. They fly to the roosts in the latter part of the day in clouds, darkening the air, and stunning the ears with the sound of their wings. At such times, the slaughtering of numbers has no effect upon the others: the hindmost rush on the others like Buffaloes running over a precipice. The nests are rudely made of a few sticks; sometimes there are twenty on a tree, and the trees as thick as they can stand. The *squabs* are said to be heavier about the time they are able to fly than they ever are afterwards, and are then considered most delicate eating. The inhabitants contemplate making a general feast of them about the time they come out of their nests. Where such myriads of them congregate, the ground receives a coating of manure which makes it very rich.

Zanesville, O., May 21, 1843.

From the Farmer's Herald.

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture No. 58. W. Blackwood and Sons, Edinburgh and London.

Mr. HANNAM found as the result of his experiments, a fact which Mr. Hardcastle anticipated before the grinding was concluded, that "No. 5, the ripest wheat, ground the worst, a fact," Mr. Hardcastle observed, "which few would believe unless they saw." Further examination explained this:—

"In No. 5 we found a much greater quantity of flinty particles, which would not pass through the flour-sieve, than in any other; a fact which clearly explained why it should, in miller's parlance, grind worst." The deficiency of No. 5, in yield of flour, when compared with No. 3, was accounted for by the difference in the quantity of the pollard (or sharps), and in the quality of the bran: the bran from No. 5 being coarse and heavy, while that from No. 3 was thin as a bee's wing.

"The flour from the various wheats Mr. Hardcastle declared to be worth at that time, 2s. 6d. per stone wholesale. The pollard he valued at 1s. 3d.; and the bran at 10d. per stone. Taking the straw at 2d. per stone, the real value of the respective cuttings will stand thus.—

No. 1.

	£	s	d
8 st. 12 lbs. of flour, at 2s. 6d. ℔ stone...	£1	2	1½
12 lbs of pollard, at 1s. 3d.	0	1	0¾
2 st. 1 lb of bran, at 10d.	0	1	8½
22½ st of straw, at 2d.	0	3	9
Total value of the produce of 20 perches	£1	8	7½

No. 2.

	£	s	d
8 st 6 lb of flour, at 2s. 6d. ℔ stone	£1	1	0¼
11 lb of pollard, at 1s. 3d.	0	0	11¾
1st 11 lb of bran, at 10d	0	1	5¾
21 st 3 lb of straw, at 2d	0	3	6¼
Total...	£1	7	0½

No. 3.

	£	s	d
12 st 6 lb of flour, at 2s. 6d. ℔ stone...	£1	11	0¾
12 lb of pollard, at 1s. 3d...	0	1	0¾
2 st 1 lb of bran, at 10d...	0	1	8½
20 st 8 lb of straw, at 2d—	0	3	5
Motal...	£1	17	3

No. 4.

	£	s	d
12 st 3 lb of flour, at 2s. 6d. ℔ stone...	£1	10	6¼
1 st 3 lb of pollard, at 1s. 3d...	0	1	6
2 st 5 lb of bran, at 10d...	0	1	11½
19 st 2 lb of straw, at 2d...	0	3	2½
Total...	£1	17	2

No. 5.

	£	s	d
10 st 11 lb of flour, at 2s. 6. ℔ stone...	£1	6	11¼
1 st 9 lb of pollard, at 1s. 3d...	0	2	0½
2 st 5 lb of bran, at 10d...	0	1	11¼
18 st of straw, at 2d...	0	3	0
Total...	£1	13	11¼

Mr. Hannem, whose care in conducting the experiments is beyond all praise, says—

"In order, therefore, to see how much of the deficiency in measure was to be attributed to the shrinking of the grain by drying, and how much to the other accidental circumstances, I took a long glass tube, sealed at the bottom, of ½-inch diameter, and partially filled it with water. Having made a mark on the glass at the point where the water reached, I made another some distance upwards. After this I poured grains of wheat from the sample No. I until the water's edge touched the top mark. The tube was then emptied, and a similar operation performed with all the samples.

"From this I found that it required 1110 grains of No. I, 1005 of No. 2, and 910 of No. 5, to fill the tube so far that the water rose to the top mark. Between Nos. 3, 4, and 5, I could not, after several trials, find any real difference—the variation scarcely exceeding 1 per cent, and that in favour first of one sample and then another.

As the result of his care and pains, Mr. Hannam found the following to be as correct an approximation of the values of the acre cut at the times stated, as it is possible to come at :—

No. 1, quite green	£11	17	0
No. 2, green	13	6	0
No. 3, raw	14	18	0
No. 4, not quite so raw	14	17	4
No. 5, ripe	13	11	8

Shewing a loss of £1 14s. 8d. per acre upon No. 1. as compared with No. 5; a loss of 5s. 8d. per acre upon No. 2, do. do.; and a gain of £1 6s. 4d. per acre upon No. 3, as compared with the ripe, and of £3 1s. per acre, as compared with the green cut, No. 1."

We hope to be able to recur again to Mr. Hannam's paper at a future day, at present we most cordially invite attention to it.

Correspondence of the Albany Cultivator.

And now while upon the subject, allow me to make a few remarks about emigrating to a new country. Whoever comes here expecting to realise one-half the pleasure and "far delights" that a fertile imagination will conjure up when seated in the comfortable apartments of a farmer's cottage, with perhaps a smoking breakfast, dinner or tea before him, will be disappointed. One moment's *cool reflection*, or at least a few month s trial, will satisfy the most skeptical, for in the nature of things it cannot be. It must, and it will take years, before the beginner will have those thousand little comforts and conveniencies—aye and great ones too—about him that he has left behind. There may be romance enough in the idea that you have emigrated, to sustain you a few times in going twenty miles to mill with an ox team, or a quarter of a mile after water, yet it is thought that when "tired nature" shall lisp those significant words, "uncomfortable," and "inconvenient," it will effectually banish the bright dreams of the imagination. Above all things does old age and pioneering seem incompatible. Reflect and hesitate long before you tear up those old deep rooted affections to transplant in another and a newer soil. They cannot flourish again, and perchance may die. Young trees may bear the transplanting, but the old deep rooted and established should not be moved.

Respectfully yours,

G. Cook.

Experiment tried on three years old pasture in Scotland, by Wilson, of Aucheniden, furnished to the Philosophical Society of Glasgow. Two hundred perches were divided into ten lots of twenty perches each, and treated as follows, yielded the following produce :.

Lot 1—Left untouched,.....	420 lbs
2—2½ bbls. of Irish quick lime,.....	602
3—4 cwt. lime from Lias works,.....	651
4—4½ cwt. wood charcoal powder,.....	665
5—2 bushels bone dust,.....	693
6—18 lbs. nitrate potash,.....	742
7—20 lbs. nitrate soda,.....	784
8—12½ bolls soot, (equal to 4 bush.).....	819
9—28 lbs. sulphate ammonia,.....	874
10—100 gallons ammonia liquor, from Lias works, at 5 deg. Tweddle,.....	945

The value of the applications was 5s. for each lot, or at the rate of 2l. per Scotch acre. All the articles were applied on the 16th of April, 1841. The grass cut and made into hay in the following July.—*Ib.*

THE SEASON AND CROPS.

From the Cultivator.

We make the following extracts from letters to the Editors, received during the past month :

Salem, Indiana, May 20 —"Wheat has been injured very materially by the winter, and the crop will probably be less than an average one."

Hannibal, Missouri, May 15.—"We have the most backward spring ever known here. Our wheat crop is literally killed. I know of none that I think can produce ten bushels per acre."

Pope Creek, Mercer co., Illinois, May 17.—"Added to the scarcity of money, and the extreme hard times, and unusually low price of all kinds of products, we have with us this season, another and greater calamity than we have ever before had, in the almost total failure of the wheat crop. There is not, so far as we can yet learn, one acre in fifty of winter wheat, that will pay for harvesting or reimburse the farmer for the seed sown."

Zanesville, Ohio, May 28.—"The season is very backward, but the weather lately has been favourable, and the growth of vegetation rapid. The prospect for wheat is only tolerably good. It suffered much from the winter, excepting the earliest sown."

Iberville, Louisiana, May 29.—"Our crops are now full one month behind the usual time. Our cane, that was four feet high on the first of June last year, is now not more than two, and the ratoons a very bad stand. We generally have roasting ears by the first of May; this year we shall have them in about a week from this time. *All our early fruit was destroyed in the bloom; garden* vegetables we have in abundance, and the weather is now fine for the advancement of vegetation, so that we may yet be blessed with an abundant crop. We have feared an overflow this year, but the Mississippi has not been over the natural banks, and has commenced falling within a few days."

Delevan, Wisconsan, June 7.—"The winter has been very severe, more so than was ever known before. Coarse grains very scarce and high; wheat is becoming so. Winter wheat appears generally very fine, as do all crops except corn and vines."

From the New England Farmer.

WAGES OF FARM LABORERS IN ENGLAND.

The "Notes on the Agricultural Districts," published in the London Chronicle, represent the wages of labourers as extremely low—lower in fact than the operatives in the factories. The writer says :—

"I find that on the most of the farms in this district, [Berkshire] two out of three plows, and two out of three waggons and horses, are managed by young men under twenty years of age, whose wages vary from three to five shillings per week, never exceeding and seldom reaching six, but sometimes for boys who are hired by the year and who are at work sixteen hours a day, as low as two shillings a week. And by these youths and young men two-thirds of all the plowing and carting on the farm is done. They provide themselves with food and clothing out of their wages —sleep in a stable loft, have no fireside to go to, no hot dinners, but everlasting bread and lard, bread and lard, bread and lard.

Here is a conversation with one of them, on a large farm near Abingdon :—

'You hold the plough, you say; how old are you?' 'I'm sixteen a'most.'

'What wages have you?' 'Three shillin' a week.'

'Three shillings! Have you nothing else? Don't you get your victuals, or part of them from your master?' 'No. I buy them all.'

'All out of three shillings?' 'Ees, and buys my clothes out o' that.'

'And what do you buy to eat?' 'I buys bread and lard.'

'Do you eat bread and lard always? What have you for breakfast?' 'Bread and lard?'

'And what for dinner?' 'Bread and lard.'

'What for supper; the same?' 'Ees the same—bread and lard.'

'It seems to be always bread and lard: have you no boiled bacon and vegetables?' 'No: there be no place to boil 'em: no time to boil 'em; none to boil.'

'Have you never a hot dinner nor supper? do n't you get potatoes?' 'Ees once a week, and we pay master for 'em.'

'And what do you eat with them; bacon?' 'No.'

'What then?' 'Lard; never has nothing but lard.'

'Can't you boil potatoes or cook your victuals if you choose?' 'No; has no fire.'

'Have you no fire in cold weather?' 'No; we never has fire.'

'Where do you go in the winter evenings?' 'To bed, when it be time; an' it be n't time, we goes to some of the housen as be round about.'

'To the fireside of some of the cottages, I suppose?' 'Ees; and where we can get.'

'What if you cannot get; do you go into the farm house?' 'No, must n't; never goes nowhere but to bed, an it be very cold.'

'Where is your bed?' 'In the tollit,' (stable loft.)

'How many of you sleep there?' 'All on us as be hired.'

'How many are hired?' 'Four last year; five this.'

'Does any one make your beds for you?' 'No; we makes 'em ourself.'

'Who washes your sheets?' 'Who washes 'em?'

'Yes; they *are* washed. I suppose?' 'No, they be n't.'

'What! never washed? Do you mean to say you do n't have your sheets washed?' 'No, never since I comed.'

'When did you come?' 'Last Michaelmas.'

'Were your bed clothes clean then?' 'I dare say they was.'

'And don't you know how long they are to serve until they are changed again?' 'To Michaelmas, I hear tell.'

'So one change of bed clothes serves a year! Do n't you find your bed disagreeable?' 'Do I? I be too sleepy. I never knows nought of it, only that I has to get up afore I be awake, and never gets into it afore I be a'most a sleep. I be up *at* four, and be n't done work afore eight at night.'

'You don't go so long at the plow as that?' 'No; but master be always having summat for me to do; we be always at summat.'

From the Boston Cultivator.

To the President &c. of the Holywood Agricultural Society.

Gentlemen;—Having observed in your published list of premiums for this year, which by some means fell into my hands, one offered by Mr. Marlin, for the best essay on, or description of a manure or manures, which will make the best substitute for that usually prepared in the farm yard, procured from towns, I thought I would take a chance for it, and resolved, as I have many opportunities of seeing the crops growing, and of conversing with those who grow them, to cast my eyes about, and seek for information of the different manures by which they are produced. I at last fixed upon a farmer's field, where a number of persons had their potatoe crops planted beside each other. A great difference in the several lots was very perceptible, and my first impression naturally was, as the farmer, the owner of th field, had the largest manure heap, the produce of many cattle, he should have the best crop. On enquiry however, I was mistaken, for one lot, of a person who kept only one pig, and another belonging to a cottager who kept no pig, were both better than the general crop. Now, said I to myself, I have the secret to make good manure (and I must confess, my mind turned more strongly on the premium,) if I can only prevail on this cottager who keeps no pig, to tell me how he makes *his* manure—what *he* carries on on a small scale, I will conduct on a large one. He appeared quite astonished at my making inquiry on so simple a matter, as he called it, as a cottager's manure heap, and thought me very ignorant indeed. However, in a very few words, he told me that he collected all the green weeds he could, scraped the roads, pared off all the green edges, and cleaned out the *water tables* opposite his own house, and as much further as he could; and, if his landlord would allow him, *scoured* out a ditch, and even picked up quantities of the *red till*, by times. All these he collected into a heap, and he never allowed a drop of suds, dirty water, house-buckets or any other liquid that could be collected, to be lost; but poured all on the heap of rubbish he had collected, and, after some time, turned it carefully and mixed it properly. On inquiry, I found that he did not apply a greater quantity of this manure to produce his crops, than is usually done from the farm yard; and he assured me its good effects remained in the soil and appeared on the future crops.

STICKFAST OR WOLF.

To the Editor of the Boston Cultivator.

Sir:—I have this day received one of your numbers, viz, 10th June, instant, in which my name is mentioned in connection with the stickfast or wolf on the jaws of cattle. Nearly thirty years since it was suggested to me by one Allen House, that the disease in cattle called a wolf or stickfast was nothing more nor less than what we call an ulcer tooth in the human race. House had tooth drawers made of a suitable size for extracting cattle's teeth, on the same principle of those used to extract the teeth of the human race. I attended in my neighbourhood and saw him extract one. One of my friends, a nephew of mine, had a tooth drawer made, of a good size, and used it in a number of cases, and I believe to good advantage.—Now for my own experience.

Perhaps eight or nine years since, I had a two or three years old steer sent to a pasture in the spring, and at so great a distance that I did not see him again until October following, when he came home with one of those bunches on his jaws. (I am not certain that it was on the under jaw, nor do I see any good reason why they may not come on the upper jaw: but I do believe that they generally come between two and four years old, and the shedding teeth may be some cause of the disease.) I extracted a tooth and he appeared to be well. I soon sold him to my neighbor for beef, reserving the head when killed. I took it and went to Dr. E. Holmes, editor of the Maine Farmer, and he sawed it in pieces and examined it, and it was our opinion that, had the steer lived, it was not so thoroughly vented, but that it would have gathered again. I had another steer afterwards, not more than three or four years since, afflicted in the same way. I extracted three carious teeth at different times from his jaw, and when the last was extracted I bored with a spike gimblet into the jaw, and produced all the opportunity for a discharge I could through the place where the last drawn tooth stood, and the disease appeared to be cured, but it left considerable of a hard callous on the the jaw. I was offered, about six or eight months after the last tooth was extracted, fifty dollars for him and his mate; I sold him in the fall for sixty

two and a half dollars, and he was driven to Brighton and killed, weighing upwards of one thousand pounds. The extracting of teeth, if done so thoroughly as to give a sufficient vent, is a cure I believe.

ELIJAH WOOD.

Winthrop, June 19, 1843.

POLL EVIL.—This disease, says the Southern Planter, has generally been considered incurable, but Mr Samuel Terril, of Caroline, an old gentleman of the highest respectability, called at our office a few days since, to say that he had a never failing remedy in the little evergreen, commonly called the *ground ivy*. The leaf is gathered and dried before the fire until it can be pounded, when a table spoonful is mixed with an equal quantity of slacked lime, and the swelling having been laid open to the bone, the mixture is laid on the wound and kept on its place by a bandage. Mr. Terril says he has used it himself, and that he has known it frequently used by others, and that, in no instance, has the first application failed to effect a cure.

NEW GRAIN FORK.

At a farm near Buffalo we saw a new grain-fork, the best adapted for pitching sheaves of grain, of anything of the kind we ever before noticed.

Its construction is perfectly simple, and it can be made by any skilful blacksmith accustomed to forge pitchforks. It consists of two tines, nine inches long, which are spread 2 inches at the shank and 2½ at the ends. The shank has a sudden curve at the end, of about 2 inches, so as to bring the points of the fork nearly in a line with the direction of the handle and shank. The naked part of the shank is eight inches long, 1 inch wide, by one third of an inch thick, and enters the handle, which has a ferule on the end 5 inches, secured to the shank by a strong rivet. The tines and shank are made of the best of German steel, and possesses great elasticity, which very much lessens the labor of pitching. The handle may be of any desired length, but should possess as much elasticity as possible. Mr. A. Raynor informed us, he could easily throw a sheaf over his barn from the load, and that he never pitched so easily with any instrument as this. The sheaf leaves the tines with an elastic spring, and the fork at the same time utters a musical sound, like the tuning fork, when struck, of a music master.—*Am. Agriculturist.*

"MOTHER CHANGES HER MIND."

Perhaps in no way do mothers more effectually destroy their own influence with children, and injure them, than from neglecting to practice decision. The following little fact will illustrate the pernicious influence of this course of conduct:

A little girl remarked a short time since that beaver hats were quite fashionable, and that she would have one. 'Have you forgotten,' said I, 'that your mother yesterday remarked that the hat you wore last winter is quite neat, and that she did not wish to encourage extravagance, and a love of fashion in a little girl.' 'Ah well,' replied she, 'no matter for that—mother said that our Susan should not go to Miss W's. party the other evening, because she was very much afraid there would be dancing there, but when sister cried about it and made a fuss, mother consented to let her go, and bought her a new pair of shoes and pretty blue scarf to wear. Besides, I am sure it is quite right to wish to have a fashionable hat to go to church in, and I'll tease mother to buy me one. And I know I shall get it—for mother often changes her mind."

"THE COLONIAL FARMER,"

TITUS SMITH, EDITOR, R. NUGENT, PROPRIETOR,

Is published semi-monthly at the Novascotian Office, Halifax.

TERMS.—One copy, 5s.; Six copies, 25s.; Twelve copies, 50s.; *Twenty-five copies, 100s. per annum.—in all cases in advance.*

With Agricola's Works, as follows.

One copy of each	£0 12
Six copies of the Colonial Farmer, and one copy of Agricola's works	1 12
Twelve copies of ditto, with two copies of ditto	3 2
Twenty-five copies of ditto, with three copies of ditto	5 17

☞ Every description of Plain and Ornamental Printing executed with neatness and despatch at the "Novascotian Office."