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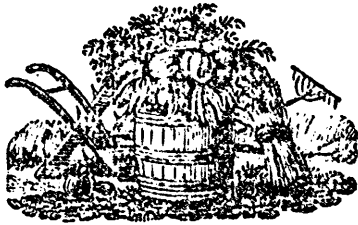
# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

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

VOL. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 16, 1842.

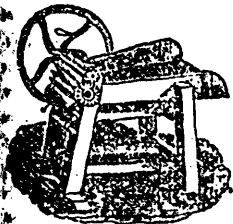
NO. 2.



## THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 16, 1842.

### GREEN'S PATENT STRAW-CUTTER.



This is probably the best instrument of the kind that has yet been invented. The strength of one man is sufficient to cut two bushels in a minute. The common Dutch straw-cutter has been found to effect a great saving in fodder, as cattle will eat all the bright straw of wheat, barley, or oats when cut with an equal quantity of good hay. It

has been much used in America by farmers of Dutch or German descent, and had probably come into general use, but for the time required to cut any considerable quantity with this feeble machine. Green's invention combining great power, with great simplicity, will make the cutting of fodder for a stock of ten or twelve head, a trifling job.

The German custom of feeding working horses and cattle with a mixture of bruised grain, and chaff composed of straw and hay cut together, is excellent. When formerly English and German horsemen were serving in the same army on the continent, the horses of the Germans always kept in the best condition, and on some occasions when compelled to travel for a few days where forage could not be procured, one third of the horses belonging to some English regiments were completely knocked up, and had to be replaced with others, while the more provident Germans did not lose a horse, as they always carried behind the saddle, a double feed of cut chaff and grain, which was never used but at such times, and in such quantities as the commander directed. The horse whose long feed is half straw always has better wind than one fed wholly on hay. Many have admired the excellent draught horses of the Dutch teamsters, who formerly were the Carriers from Philadelphia to the Ohio, before the invention of Steamboats. These horses were fed with cut straw and hay mixed, and bruised rye, in the proportion of one quart of grain to two of chaff. The feed was always wet when it was given, and (when there was time to wait for it to cool) wet with boiling water.

The price of Green's Strawcutter in Boston is 30 dollars. We learn that a Mechanic in Picout is now engaged in manufacturing Strawcutters upon the same principle. If he makes them as good as his Model he must succeed if the Farmers can see their own interest.

Osborne, TIOGA COUNTY, December 29, 1834.

J. Bucl, Esq.—Dear Sir—Will you please give to the public through your valuable Agricultural paper, (*the Cultivator*.) the following Recipe for the cure of that formidable disease of the horse, called the Poll Evil. As soon as the Tumor appears, make a strong decoction of the root of the meadow plant or vine known by the name of "poison ivy," and sometimes by that of *Mercury*; bathe the tumor with this decoction every day, as hot as the horse will bear it; and heat it with a hot iron. In a short time it will begin to diminish, and in six weeks it will wholly subside. A very valuable horse of mine was attacked with this disease last summer, and two months, after we first discovered it, were consumed in experiments of various kinds, when I became discouraged, and gave up the horse as lost. The tumor became appalling, so much so, that the best of our farriers declined to undertake a cure, and advised me to sell my horse for the best price I could get; when shortly afterwards, I accidentally heard of the above remedy, I tried it, and with complete success. No trace of the disease remains, although when I commenced the application the horse was so bad that he could not drop his head low enough to drink, unless he was driven into deep water. I have no doubt the remedy is a specific if applied in time. How long before the tumor breaks, the application, to be successful, must be made, I am not able to say—but the tumor on my horse must have been three months advancing before we commenced our application. IRA CLIZBE.

[This shrub, the "*Rhus radicans*," is very common in this Province. The leaves resemble those of the *Walthrod*, but are more shining, and always grow by threes. A French Surgeon has highly recommended it as an application for inveterate Rheumatism. The bruised leaves will produce more inflammation than Spanish Flies. It should never be boiled in a house, unless the chimney has a very strong draught, nor should it be collected or handled by persons who are freckled or very fair, and care should be taken to keep to windward when taking it up, as much exposure to the steam that comes from it when cut produces a troublesome kind of Erysipelas, which lasts for several days. Should such an accident occur apply soft soap and salt to the affected parts. Be careful not to wash after handling this shrub, for five or six hours. The same precaution is necessary for those who are mowing wild meadows in which the poison Ivy is found.—ED. OF COL. FAR.]

### FOR THE COLONIAL FARMER.

Str.—I was gratified by reading a communication from Mr. N. A. Coster, of Barrsborough Rectory, in the *Colonial Farmer* for June, treating of the impoverishing effects of burning new land for the first crop. Many years ago I have thought on this subject. I see with regret large tracts of country, which I formerly witnessed covered with a luxuriant and heavy crop of timber, now reduced nearly to a barren, the soil of which will produce little else than stunted bushes and weeds. The cause of this desolating change is easy to account for, on philosophical principles. The portions of land here alluded to were exposed to the violent hurricanes which formerly visited this country, one in the year 1798, and another at a later period, which laid prostrate the whole of the timber thereon. Here were accumulated the vegetation of two or three hundred years in the shape of timber undergrowth, roots, moss, &c. Thus we may suppose that every particle of vegetable food, consisting either of carbon or salts of the various alkalies which form this food, were extracted to the depth to which the roots of the timber had formerly penetrated. The decay of this mass in a few years renders it highly combustible in dry seasons;

and when by accident or design it became ignited the conflagration was dreadful, the intense heat of which changed the whole mass into an aereal form, lighter than the atmosphere; and was dispersed by the winds caused by the high temperature created in its locality. Not only the carbon is entirely gone but the lime and potass and other salts composing the ashes were in some places altogether and others nearly all dissipated by the intense heat; hence barrenness is the result. Compare this with the present mode of clearing new land, and it will be seen that the process is similar; the only difference is that the time between the cutting of the timber and the burning seldom exceeds six months, and it is of course much less combustible than that which has been prostrate for years; consequently the desolating effects will not be so great, as a small portion of the ashes and carbon will be left on the ground which will produce one crop of grain, and if the land is good two or three subsequent crops of hay, after which it can be only used as a scanty pasture. Now as all vegetable matter contains the food of future plants which it will furnish when properly reduced to its first elements by decay or combustion, so managed that there shall be no loss by evaporation, it will easily be perceived that there is an immense waste of useful matter in the common practice of burning wood lands. One acre of land clothed with original forest will contain 300 tons of vegetable matter, including timber, brush underwood, decayed wood, and moss, with the herbage that usually grows on forest lands. Professor Leibig, the most popular and latest writer on organic chemistry, agriculture and physiology now extant, shews clearly that all vegetable substances are composed of carbon, the constituents of water, which are hydrogen and oxygen, ammonia, lime, potass, and magnesia, and occasionally small portions of other salts to produce the sweet, acrid, acid, or bitter principle that vegetables may contain. Now if the 300 tons of forest brushwood, &c. were reduced by some chemical process, either naturally or artificially, to an elementary state, without letting its constituents escape, it would produce, at 20 tons for each six years, manure for one acre for 90 years. The proportion would be, as one is to fifteen or six to ninety, or in other words the vegetable matter contained, on three and one-third rods square, or ten and a half square rods, of forest land, which according to this calculation would be 20 tons; would manure one acre of arable land preparatory for a rotation of cropping for six years. I am gratified that Mr. Coster has proposed two plans to obviate this wasteful process; I beg respectfully to make a remark or two on these propositions. I believe that the extra productiveness of land where potass has been manufactured is not caused by the abstracting of the ashes, for not only the lime and potass but also the other salts of wood are carried off, and there is also the loss of the carbon, which is dissipated during the combustion of the wood that the ashes are obtained from; but the wood which was not consumed in this process, as well as the moss, undergrowth, and stumps which would form a large portion of the original mass, would be left in a proper state for decomposition; and when this land comes under the action of the plow, its fertility would be far superior to that where the whole has been swept off by fire. Respecting the ringing or girdling of the trees the fertilizing principle would be the same, with the exception that the loss of carbon and ashes by the combustion of the former, and the removal of the latter. Decomposition by time would be the same in the one as in the other. As the great utility of rendering the vegetable matter of Nova Scotia forests effective as a manure will be evident to all, I hope by thus agitating the subject to call forth the talent of scientific individuals, both of the farming as well as the other classes to give their views on this subject. The Chemist, the Philosopher, and the Agriculturist, will

find sufficient here to amuse their talent of ingenuity as well as exercise their practical abilities. I now beg to propose a process which I know by experience to be effective, but time only, and repeated experiments by various individuals can demonstrate its ultimate utility. It is well known that in England, Scotland, and various parts of the European Continent burnt clay has been and now is in use as a manure, and it has always been an undecided question what caused its fertility, some supposing one thing and some another, without giving any good reasons that their views were correct; but all seem to agree that the torrefaction of the clay is the cause. Leibig gives the most rational solution of the question, he states that the oxydes of iron and alumina are distinguished from all other metallic oxydes by their power of forming solid compounds with ammonia; this substance is indispensable to the production of wheat; its presence produces the gelatinous part of that seed, which renders it preferable to all others for bread. I have not the least doubt of Leibig's theory on this subject, but from repeated experience I have no doubt the burning of clay produces other effects superior, and independent of it. I will now state my process for reducing the vegetable matter on the forest land to a consistence for manure, without the escape of any part. Take a piece of arable clay land, as near the forest as can be obtained, cut and split the timber of every description (clearing the land as you go) into cord wood lengths, that is to say timber, brushwood, decayed logs, &c.; convey this to the arable land selected, pile it in the best form for drying and let it remain until dry; when dry, put it in piles similar to coal kilns, only much lower in proportion to their breadth; leave an opening to put in fire, cover all the remainder with green boughs of fir or spruce, then cover the whole with clay thrown on loosely to a depth sufficient to retain the smoke, put fire into the aperture before mentioned and when properly kindled cover all with clay that no smoke may escape, and if at any subsequent period the fire or smoke may burst through additional quantities must be thrown on to stop it, and so on until the whole of the vegetable matter is consumed; which of course will be absorbed by the clay; there will be some charcoal remaining unconsumed, but this contains qualities which if not superior are equal to any part of the produce of the matter consumed. In this laboratory, if such it may be called, combustion changes the vegetable matter gradually into the gaseous form, which is absorbed and retained by the clay. If the process is properly conducted not a particle of the matter is lost, but all retained. This manure may be either spread on the land in its vicinity or conveyed to other fields where it may be required. The process as far as the combustion of the wood and the retaining of its gasses are concerned, I have repeatedly practised with success, and have found the burnt clay or more properly speaking clay saturated with smoke produce crops equal to my best barnyard manure; and the vegetation much more rapid.

Yours respectfully,

SAMUEL MOORE.

Gay's River, 2d June, 1842.

■ I have Wheat growing luxuriantly in pure powdered charcoal within my view at the present moment.

† Leibig says respecting charcoal, "plants thrive in powdered charcoal, and may be brought to bear fruit if exposed to the influence of the rain and atmosphere." He says again, "it is known to possess the power of condensing gasses within its pores, and particularly carbonic acid, and it is by virtue of this power that the roots of plants are supplied in charcoal, exactly as in humus, with an atmosphere of carbonic acid and air, which is renewed as quickly as abstracted."

From the Cape Breton Spirit of the Times.

At a Quarterly Meeting of the Cape Breton County Agricultural Society held at the Court House in Sydney, 4th July, 1842, it was Resolved that premiums be awarded to members of the Society for the following purposes, viz. :



Berkshires where the fact of their making clear pork was disputed at the packing houses of Cincinnati and other parts of Ohio. Again, notwithstanding their dark color, whether their hair be singed off by burning as is usually practiced in Great Britain, or scalded as in the United States, the skin dresses of the purest and most delicate white, and nothing in the slightest degree dark can be detected at all in it but the roots of the hair, to which the most fastidious stickler for white in a pig's skin cannot object.

We found the Berkshires more sought after in England than any other kind of swine; they were not only taking them into Scotland and Ireland, but France, Germany, and other parts of Europe, and the British colonies in every direction, not even excepting Australia, some 8,000 miles distant from the father land.

They are freer from disease than any animal we know of, and are never cursed with that sickening scabbiness of the skin, that characterizes so many other breeds.

In breeding, those of medium sizes and fine points are most sought after in England. Ten to fifteen score (200 to 300 lbs) are the maximum weights desired in Berkshire, and we were often told there, that they considered these the best and most profitable sizes for them. From this opinion, many breeders in our country dissent entirely, and though we would generally recommend those of a medium size to be wintered over, still if a spring pig will fatten kindly as he is growing, and can be made to attain 250 to 300 lbs. by the following December, it saves wintering, and may be considered upon the whole the most profitable breed. It is contended that the largest and finest Berkshires will easily do this, and several breeders have now commenced a series of experiments with the produce of our late importation, for the purpose of testing whether it can be done, and we are promised a full report of the trials as soon as completed.

All colors exist in Berkshire, stragglers occasionally finding their way in there, but they are not recognized as their breed at all, the true sort being of a black, or deep rich plumb color, with a slight flicking of buff or white on them, the feet generally white, with a small white strip in the face, and frequently a white tuft at the end of the tail. White hogs exist in considerable numbers in the neighborhood of Windsor, of tolerable fair quality. They are called old King George's breed, and are said to be the descendants of some Leicester given the late George III. by the celebrated Bakewell, for the purpose of stocking his Majesty's farm near by. They are now much deteriorated in breeding, and totally unworthy, in our judgment, an importation.

Great care is requisite in purchasing Berkshire hogs, especially on the borders of the county, as the Neapolitan, Hampshire, Wiltshire, and various other crosses exist, that none but the best judges in breeding can detect, and many of the farmers are exceedingly careless in their selections and stock animals, and some are totally indifferent whether they are pure blood or not. As to their cost this is according to fancy in a measure. Those who had taken particular pains in their selections and breeding, for picked stock, asked high prices. All sorts of meats are at present scarce, and very high in England. Good pork was worth 12 to 14 cents per pound when we were there, and the poorest pig of any breed, two to three months old, would bring in market as a stock animal, \$4 to \$5 each. Two years ago, they were not worth half that. But the first cost is nothing in comparison with other expenses, which are almost innumerable; we will merely state one item. By the London packet ship Mediator, we shipped two grown animals and eighteen small ones, about three months old. Mr. Whyte's bill of feed alone for these was £34 1s. 6d., which at the then rate of exchange, amounted to over \$160. To be sure, we were liberal in laying in sixty days supplies for the stock, as we had no idea of paying a high price for animals, and then have them starved to death on the voyage. As near as we could estimate the cost of four months' pigs, including accidents and deaths, laid down in this city, it amounted to about \$50 per head, without reckoning anything of our time employed in the selections, *with* at the reader will see that there can be no very great profit in importing Berkshires, at the prices we sold them at. Indeed, we had no idea of making money on them from the beginning, our sole motive in the importation was, to secure superior fresh crosses—whether we succeeded or not in doing so, as the animals are now here, the public can judge for itself; farther than this, it does not become us to speak. Certain it is, however, that we took unwearied pains in the selections, and went down to Berkshire no less than four times to do so. We chose from all the largest and finest families that we could hear

of, and if the animal suited us, we never hesitated at the price named for it. Others may import at a less cost than we have, but if they have obtained larger and finer animals, we shall be happy to be advised of the fact. We hardly think that England can at present add further improvement to our stock of swine in this country, and if any more importations are wanted, we would recommend obtaining them from China, Siam, and the Asiatic Islands.

We trust we shall be pardoned so many words on a subject in which it is well known that we have had a pecuniary interest, for we assure our readers that we have been literally compelled to do so, in consequence of the almost innumerable questions and letters that have been addressed us upon it. We fully believe what we assert, and, as we have paid particular attention to this subject, we express ourselves frankly, strongly, and fully, and exactly as we think. To all those who do not agree with us in opinion, we cordially invite from them an expression of their sentiments, and more especially a statement of facts in favor of any other breeds of swine, and they may be assured that they shall have a full hearing in our columns. We go for the great general good and improvement of agriculture, without regard to the private interests of any one man or thing.

From the Albany Cultivator.

LETTERS FROM MR. PETERS—No. II.

LONDON, JANUARY 1, 1842.

Messrs. Gaylard & Tucker—As too much cannot be said upon these subjects, which are of the first importance to the farmer, I shall confine my remarks to what more particularly relates to the agricultural interest.

I have been to-day, for the second time this week, through the warehouses, examining butter, cheese, lard, beef and pork, from various parts of Europe, the United States, and from every place almost in the kingdom. Every facility was given me for a thorough examination of every kind, and nowhere in the world can be found a greater variety than here.

I saw tons of American cheese that is not worth the duty, owing to the bad emanation it is in, from a want of proper knowledge as to the best method of putting up for a voyage. Out of the immense quantity I examined in these stores I am sorry to say very little will pay the shipper a profit. Unless one has seen the different kinds, and tasted them over and over again, been among the retailers, and seen the kinds they sell at best prices, he cannot form any idea of the great defects in our cheese. We have, however, one thing to console us. Those defects can be easily remedied with care, and we can send into this market cheese as good in every respect as the best here. Our cheese must be uniform in size, and of a different, and I think better proportion. As I remarked in my last, ours are too flat or thin, according to their weight. No cheese should be made of less thickness than 6 inches. Great care should be taken to press them well, and to cure thoroughly, so that the rind will be thick and tough. Cheshire cheese is yellow. It is colored by rubbing down on a stone some annatto, about an ounce to the cwt. of cheese, and mixing with the milk while warm. It is usually rubbed into the milk through a linen cloth. The temperature of the milk when set for the curd is from 90 to 100° Far. If too cold, the curd is soft and retains its whey. If too hot, it is hard and tough. No person should attempt to make cheese without a thermometer. It is of the first importance that the cheese in the dairy should be as uniform in size, taste, and appearance as possible. Some of our dairies are not surpassed by the best here; but there is in general a great lack of uniformity; and the taste and size is almost as various as the dairies. It is no merit to say that we possess every requisite to equal the whole world in the perfection of our butter and cheese. We must do it; and what more, we will do it. The time is not distant, thank Heaven, when our sons and daughters will think it quite as important to be able to make good cheese or good butter, as to play well upon the piano. And the conversation of the parlor will not only be about the latest fashion, but also the best method and latest improvements in butter and cheese making. The time has gone by for the American woman to be the frivolous, useless toy that an erroneous system of education has heretofore made her. Her destiny is a high one; for upon her, in a great degree, depends the future prosperity of our country, and the perpetuity of the republic. But excuse this short digression, if so it can be deemed.

Butter may at some time become an article of export; but it must be the very best. You meet in this market every shade

quality. The best fresh butter comes from Holland, Ireland, and the interior. The best Dutch butter is slightly salted, and is not intended to keep long. It is usually sold during the first week after its arrival. Their very best butter, however, is not better than some I have seen from Orange county, and Goshen in Connecticut. Indeed, I have eaten as good butter at farmers' tables in New-York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and Illinois, as the very best made in this or any other country. What a few farmers have done, the many may do if they will. All that is requisite is care and labor.

The best salt butter is the Kiel and Irish. The Irish is considered the best. The Irish owes its superiority to the care taken in the inspection. They make five different sorts; and it is put up in packages of from 70 to 80 pounds. The butter which they export to foreign countries is in pickle, and will keep in good order for a long time. In Ireland the butter dealer furnishes the farmer with the firkin, and it is filled at the farm. The coopers use none but the most thoroughly seasoned oak timber for making up the firkins. If well seasoned, they say there is no danger of any woody flavor being imparted to the butter.

Their method of making butter I think worthy of adopting by our farmers. The milk is churned generally; and long and careful experience and observation has shown that, all things being equal, butter made from churned milk will keep much longer in good condition than that made from churned cream alone. I should recommend that method, by churned milk, to all persons keeping small dairies, or where the cream was not churned daily. The milk is strained into pans at night, and stands till morning. It is then put into stone jars, and so divided that the jars will hold three milkings. The morning's milk is put in at night, and the night's milk again in the morning. The whole is occasionally stirred with a stick, flat stick until it has become thoroughly curdled. It is considered best when it commences curdling at the bottom. The whole is then put into the churn, and churned with a rapid motion. The temperature of the milk is quite important; as if it be too cold it is too warm it froths very bad; and warm or cold water must be added, as circumstances may require. The proper degree of temperature could be ascertained by a little practice. Churns are worked by steam, by sheep, dogs, and donkeys, and the necessary machinery is put up at a very small expense. The butter when taken from the churn is washed in clear spring or well water until the butter-milk is washed out. It is then worked over, and packed according to the season and the market. The best salt is the kind known as the "Liverpool stored salt," which is very fine and dry. It is, however, made as fine and uniform as possible by rolling it on a table with a paste, or rolling pin. It is not considered so good to put into the firkin until it has stood a week or so, and been thoroughly worked over at least twice. Every particle of butter-milk is worked out. I consider it essential that cows should also have free access to salt.

I hope our farmers will turn their attention to this subject; as hundreds of thousands of dollars could be saved to them annually by a very little more care and attention in this one article. Let us try the experiment. The course pursued by some of the best dairies here, and which has been crowned with complete success, is certainly worthy of our serious consideration. Let us once get in the right way, and it will then be not only profitable but pleasant to go ahead.

If I have been too tedious, you must lay it to my anxiety to do good to the great interests of our country. Sincerely yours,  
T. C. PIERZAS.

#### ON REARING CALVES.

*Mrs. Gaylord & Tucker*—D. B. C., in the first number of the *Farmer*, wishes information on the treatment of calves for the winter or for rearing. I do not say I know the best way; but from some experience I can inform him of a good one for the winter. I let them take all the milk they will from the cow (and one does not give enough I give them more) till they are five or six weeks old, keep them in a close dark place, clean and dry, and they never fail of being good. For rearing, I take them from the cow soon after they are dropped, and feed them new milk two or three times the first weeks. I then set my milk from morning till night, and take off the cream, boil potatoes or beans and mash them fine, and mix with the milk with very little salt. I feed them with that food till they are twelve or thirteen weeks old, when I begin to wean them by reducing the quantity, at the same time put a trough in

their pasture where I put dry oats, and they soon learn to eat them; one pint per day each through the summer. In the fall, or first of suckling time, I feed them that mess morning and evening. Through the winter, feed hay, corn fodder, oats in sheaf, and when the weather is not extremely cold, give them a few potatoes, carrots, or turneps, with plenty of clean water and salt, and be sure to protect them from all inclement weather. In the spring, I turn in pasture with other cattle—no extra care. My heifers never fail to come in at two years old as large as my neighbors' are at three; be the feed what it will, feed plenty. If my cattle from any cause get troubled with lice, I have a remedy I have never seen in the *Cultivator*. I keep a box with fine dry sand in my barn, and if I discover any lice on them I put it on from back of the horns the whole length of their back a few times; it has never failed to effect a cure. It may be observed that cattle, or any animal that has free access to the ground, are seldom troubled with lice in summer. If you think the above remarks worth notice, they are yours. I have used many words to convey a few ideas, but I could not make them plainer with less. I have been for several years a careful reader of your paper, and surely I have derived much benefit from what I have learned from others' experience.  
LEWIS NUMAN.

*Glen's Falls, Feb. 14, 1842.*

#### POTATOE OATS.

*Editors of the Cultivator*—I have been requested by several respectable gentlemen concerned in horses, to call the attention of farmers to the bad quality of potatoe oats for horse feed. They state that a very large portion of them pass through the animal undigested; so much so, that their horses began to decline very much in flesh while feeding on them before the cause was suspected. They say that the chaff covering the grain is so firm and impervious that digestion is impossible. I cannot agree with them in the cause of the evil, however correct they may be in their observation of the evil itself, which I of course do not doubt. We all know that all kinds of oats, as well as other grain, will pass through the horse unchanged, unless it be crushed by the teeth; as nature has provided all grain with a skin that the juices of the stomach cannot dissolve. If, therefore, more of the potatoe oats pass undigested than of other kinds, it must be because of their being more difficult to masticate. Whatever be the cause of the evil, however, the evil itself cannot be questioned; consequently, no one that keeps many horses here, or at least, no one that I have seen that pays proper attention to them, will now purchase potatoe oats at any price. I have consulted several, and they all concur in opinion. The purchasers of forage for the army horses here will not purchase them at all. I have therefore thought it advisable to caution farmers against their cultivation.  
G. B. SMITH.

*Baltimore, February 1, 1842.*

#### MANAGEMENT OF POULTRY.

I have been requested to give you and your readers, some account of my success in the management of domestic fowls. My experiment, having been continued for many years, have wrought in me the full conviction, that there is as great a difference and as much ground of preference among the breeds or varieties, as there is among cattle. Having tried a great number of different kinds, I have adapted as my favorite, the Poland breed, or the black top-knots, as they are familiarly called.—These, when pure or thoroughly bred, are of glossy coal black, with a large tuft of long white feathers on the top of the head, and are the most beautiful domestic fowls probably, that can be found in this country. Their excellence consists mainly in their disinclination to set till they are three or four years old, and when well fed, continuing to lay eggs the whole year, except during moulting time. This generally commences in the month of October or November, and occupies about six weeks, during which they never lay eggs.

Last year I kept of the black top-knots, two cocks and fourteen hens. Early in December, 1840, they began to lay and continued laying, with occasional intervals of from three to six days, all winter and summer, till about the middle of October 1841. The whole number of eggs produced, I did not ascertain; but of the eggs of three hens, they laid by themselves the year round, I kept an account, and found that they averaged 260 eggs each. Only two of the fourteen hens showed the least disposition to set during the year. The food they consumed during one year, consisted, first of twelve bushels of wheat, which I purchased at twenty-five cents

per bushel, amounting to six dollars. This with a supply of fresh water every day, kept them in good condition, and caused them to produce large eggs; for all fowls lay larger and heavier eggs when well fed, than when they are poor. My fowls have also had the whole of this last winter. I have never succeeded so well with any other breed.

Buffon says, a common hen, well fed and attended, will produce upwards of 160 eggs in a year, besides two broods of chickens. But the common hens I formerly kept, always fell much short of this number.

Were I to describe as the result of my experience, what I think the best food for fowls, I should say a plenty of grain, not much matter what kind, either boiled or soaked in water, and in winter, mixed with boiled potatoes, fed warm, twice a day. It is also of great importance that they have a warm sunny place to stay in during winter, for if left without care to find their roost here and there in an open barn or shed, they will produce no eggs. If they could, in winter, be roasted in a light room ten feet square, where by their contiguity they could mutually impart warmth, their improvement would be manifested to the most incredulous.

The only disease of consequence that I have observed among my fowls, has been the *pip*, which is a kind of horny scale growing on the tip of the tongue, and by which they are liable to be attacked late in autumn and early in the winter. When attacked with this, they appear stupid, stand by themselves with no inclination to move about, refuse all food, and if not attended to in two or three days they die. On discovering these symptoms, they should be immediately caught, and with a knife or the thumb nail, this scale may be caught on the lower side of the tongue and peeled off, when they will immediately recover.—*Cor. of Albany Cultivator.*

From the Massachusetts Ploughman.

#### THE NEW PATENT MANURE DISCOVERED BY MR. DANIELL, OF TWERTON, NEAR BATH.

Mr. George Webb Hall, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Bristol Agricultural Society, and who it will be remembered, first brought the new manure discovered by Mr. Daniell of Twerton, and which has excited so much interest in the agricultural world, under the notice of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, delivered a public address at Bristol, on Thursday afternoon, in which he explained the means of promoting vegetable growth with reference to the products of agriculture, and disclosed the circumstances which had led to the discovery of the new composition, and the elements with which it is composed.

Mr. Hall commenced his observations by adverting to the interest that necessarily attached to the subject of his address, which was one of the greatest importance—an importance which was enhanced by the consideration that, within the last twenty years, no less than 7,000,000 of human beings had been added to the population of the United Kingdom.—Agriculture was a subject of the most comprehensive character, and was not, or should not, be confined by an estimate which fell far short of its just demands. It was directly conducive to the well-being of man and to the security of society, as well as to its prosperity and progress. It was to be regretted that, vast as was the field for inquiry, so little investigation into the principles of vegetable growth had taken place. Until lately the source of nutriment for plants had been unknown, and although Priestly and others had discovered, fifty years since, that the atmosphere contained certain gases which were the sources of vegetable life, yet the soil had been treated as the chief agent of production. It has long been a subject of inquiry, what is the food of plants, how are they supplied, and what are the elements of their growth? There was every reason to believe that a reply could now be given of a more satisfactory nature than had ever been hitherto known; besides which, by the discovery of Mr. Daniell, a most important corroboration had been obtained of what had been considered the elements of vegetable growth; those elements were carbon or charcoal, hydrogen or inflammable gas, oxygen or vital air, and nitrogen. All these elements existed in the atmosphere, in combination with other elements, in which state they were found to be the sources of vegetable development. It was known to persons accustomed to rural pursuits that the heaps of vegetable substances collected for the purposes of manure during the process of decomposition became greatly reduced in bulk and weight. If they investigated the causes of this reduction they would find that it was occasioned by the evaporation of the carbonic acid and

ammonia, the principal sources of nutriment to plants. One great feature of the discovery of Mr. Daniell was, that it contained all the elements of vegetable growth. It did not supply new elements but the same derived from other sources. It was known that by combustion substances were rapidly decomposed, and its operation produced the elements of vegetable growth. There were on the earth numerous plants which were apparently useless, but it was a principle in nature that nothing should be lost, and they were capable of a reduction into their elements, and being made the means of vegetable growth in other forms. The discovery of Mr. Daniell was suggested by the fact that, while burning vegetables, he observed that the ashes became blackened by the surrounding smoke, and when used in that state were very fertilizing. This led him to inquire and investigate the cause, and as the result of his investigation he had produced the new manure, the elements of which were carbon and ammonia. With it the principal properties would not fly off during decomposition, as that would take place in the earth. Among other advantages, it was light in weight, cheap and capable of being produced in any quantity. Mr. Hall concluded his address by reading the following character of the manure and direction for its application:—

"This manure has been applied by the discoverer to his crops, on three acres of poor land, in an elevated situation, on one of which he has grown wheat four successive years with improving results each year; its good effects are therefore founded upon experience, personal observation, and the testimony of other observers competent to judge. Individuals of scientific attainments to whom it has been communicated are satisfied that the elements of which it is composed are all distinctly beneficial as contributing to vegetable growth—some rapidly so, others gradually, and some for a considerable period. From the nature of the manure, it is applicable, with some variations in its composition, to every kind of crop. It is not a stimulating manure, in the ordinary sense of the word—it is it will not have a tendency to call into activity the existing sources in the soil—but its direct effect is to convey to the soil direct nutriment of future growth. This effect is produced by a supply of ammonia to the soil in substances calculated to retain it for a time—to again absorb it from the atmosphere—as they put it out to plants during their growth. It is, therefore, evident that there is nothing in the disposition of the manure to lead to future sterility—but everything the reverse. It will probably prevent also the ravages of insects. Its mode of application may be varied according to the differing circumstances of the crops. The application by drill is conducive to economy of the manure, and a direct application to the infant plant as is the case with bone dust. Care however, must be taken that it is not applied too directly to the plant, or without some portion of mould around it. This is the only precaution needed to avoid danger in its use. There is no requisite to prevent waste, as it is of a volatile character; thus to place it several inches in the earth, as the earth will absorb and retain the volatile and valuable part. For grass lands, for similar reasons, it will be well to have it mixed with a considerable portion of ordinary unvalued mould. If the manure, as manufactured, is mixed with an equal bulk of mould, it will be safe for application or if the mould of the field be stirred over it when drilled it will suffice. The quantity to be used will vary according to the soil like any other manure. About twenty-four bushels per acre recommended for wheat, and half as much more, or thirty bushels, might be beneficially applied for turnips or mangel wurt. The most beneficial quantities will easily be ascertained by the intelligent farmer."

Mr. Hall produced a sample of the manure—a coarse black powder, having a strong smell somewhat resembling coal. Samples of the wheat grown by Mr. Daniell were also exhibited and it was stated in reply to questions, that the crops produced were greater in quantity, better in quality and weight, and produced with one-third the ordinary quantity of seed. The manure probably be about one-third the present price of bone dust.

It is said that Spirits of Turpentine is a deadly enemy to all insect tribes, and consequently will destroy the bug or worm which is found to prey on wheat and other grain. With a watering finely perforated in the spout, a person may sprinkle a field of acres, without using more than two or three gallons. The experiment on a small scale may easily be tried.

Grated horse-radish is said to be excellent to eat in case of hoarseness from a cold.

ROADS.

Although the construction of roads is as much of an art as commerce, and as much of a science as other branches of civil engineering, where good roads are the order of the day; yet with us the superintendence of their construction and repair is entrusted to the professions—to farmers, mechanics, lawyers, &c. who seldom understand much of the art, and know nothing of the science—and often rather mar than mend the work of their predecessors.

To make our readers acquainted with some of the leading principles which govern, in the business of road making in Great Britain, we will state them in a summary manner, as we find them laid down in some of the "most recent British publications upon this subject, principally from the "Farmer's Series" of the library of the Agricultural Knowledge.

**Foundation.**—Eminent men differ upon this point; one party holding that a foundation of large stones is necessary to make a road substantial and good road; the other, that it is not essential. [To all these opinions it may be observed that where a road is intended upon clay which is impervious to water, the stone foundation is necessary, because the road cannot be drained in this case by ditches at the sides, but upon a porous or gravelly soil it is not necessary.]

**Drainage.**—All exertion to construct or repair roads is unavailing unless the bed of the road is freed from water, and secured against its return. To prevent this, substantial side ditches should be made, so as to give a slope of one inch in twenty four, between the sides of the road and the bottom. If open drains cannot be made on both sides owing to the declivity of the surface, underground drains should be constructed, with outlets through the bed of the road, to the lower side, and if springs exist in the site of the road, the water must be concentrated, and conducted off by under-drains.

**Resistance or thickness of materials.**—Without a sufficient quantity of solid materials there will not be a resistance equal to the weight which a highway is subjected to. If the mass of broken stones forming the substance be of an imperfect quality more will be required than when sound and clean. In proportion to the quantity of earth or small gravel contained in the body must the thickness be increased. The hard materials contained in the roads can be calculated upon as possessing the quality to resist weight.

Experience has proved that there can be no real security against a road giving way, taking the year through, unless twelve inches at the surface of good consolidated materials form the body of a road, and a drainage upon a foundation rendered sound and dry by effectual drainage.

**Quality of materials.**—Not the hardest, but the toughest stones, are the best. The first will break, the latter bend. The trap, and the granite rocks are therefore preferred; then whinstone, dark colored sandstone, and limestones.

**Preparation and size of materials.**—The stone to be employed is freed from dirt, and then broken so small as to pass through the meshes of a wire sieve. Some allow the stones to retain a thickness of two inches, but none larger.

**Quantity of materials to be laid on at a time.**—When a thick coating, the destruction of the material is very great before it is well settled or incorporated with the road. The stones will roll each other to lie quiet, but are continually chawing one another, and driving their neighbors left and right above and below. Years off their angular points, produces mud and dirt, and by rolling the stones to a rounded form, prevents their uniting and forming firm. If there be substance enough already on the road it never be right to put on more than a stones thickness at a time.

On new roads the covering should be applied in thin coats. As soon as one is imbedded apply another, until the desired strength is gained.

Always remember that the road which is well made, proves to be the cheapest.—*Cultivator.*

**IMPORTANT SUGGESTION, AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.**—According to the evidence of our senses, too, a large portion of the valuable part of manure, escapes from stables and other places of confinement, in the form of gaseous ammonia.—Now by strewing the floors of stables with gypsum the gaseous manure immediately combines with the sulphuric acid of the gypsum, forming a solid mass, destitute of smell, and of great value as manure. The ammonia odor is destroyed and the manure retained. Those who have stables may successfully try this with great ease.—*Centinel Y. Farmer.*

WESTERN MANNERS.

[Extract from a private letter from a friend at the West.]

"We are very much pleased with our nearest neighbor, Mr. ——. They visit us often and treat us with much kindness and attention. His family consists of eight daughters, the oldest 19 years of age, good, substantial girls, who ask no odds in knitting, spinning, weaving, milking and housework. When planting comes they take the field, armed with their hoes, and go right ahead without any parasol or shoes."

There's for you! Look here, young men! we were about to say; but the truth is that there is scarcely one young man in twenty among us, a parcel of dandified, cigar-smoking, watch-chain-sporting, whiskered and mustachioed monks, there is hardly one in twenty that has even the shadow of a claim to such a blessing from Heaven as one of these eight girls must be to any industrious, clever fellow, whose only capital is his hands, and who wishes to get an honest living by his own labor. Such a wife would be a fortune in herself; and a man had better have one such wife than to marry a whole boarding school of your namby pamby, silk-milky trash, that too often passes under the name of accomplished; poor irresponsible butterflies! who pretend to faint at the sight of a cow as though it were some foreign wild beast escaped from a travelling menagerie, and, dear souls! don't know whether the milk comes out of the udder or the horns. What are such women good for, excepting to put in a glass case, like a beautiful piece of alabaster statuary, to ornament a mantle piece or a china closet; we mean so far as concerns getting a living, taking care of a family, or the honest accumulation of wealth. We acknowledge, old and sour as we have grown, that some of them are as pretty as the sweet fairy humming birds, the embodiment of every thing that is beautiful and poetic in form and motion, that haunt the flower garden at the close of the day, receiving and imparting an exquisite delight; but to what substantial use can such things be put? Now we don't object to accomplishments, the most intellectual and the most polite accomplishments; but we maintain that there is no incompatibility between physical labor and intellectual labor; that the exertions and increase of the physical strengthens the intellectual powers; that a woman ought to understand as well the use of her hands and limbs as of her mind; that no human being, unless in case of disease or deformity, is justified in living without some useful labor; thus while we should feel as averse as possible to subjecting women to any severe and degrading toil, we think that there are many kinds of outdoor labor on a farm, which women might perform in company with their fathers and brothers, with signal advantage and improvement to their health and persons, provided only that they will lay aside their iron armor. In times so pre-eminent for trippery and foppery in education and manners, it is quite a relief to find one sensible man, who knows how to bring them up, blessed with eight daughters to bring up. We have heard much of late years of the want of wives at the West. But if this account is at all a fair indication of the state of things there, the demand will soon be supplied by the home growth; and if our own girls in these high tariff times will allow us to say it, we must either produce a better article among ourselves, or be permitted to import from the West duty free. But we begin to be alarmed at our own temerity in so much as hinting these things; and as the almanac makers say, running down a whole page, we shall look out for a storm about these days.—*Genesee Farmer.*

**STRIPED BUG AND TURNIP FLEA.**—Sprinkle lime upon the vines and plants, and the ravages of the bugs will be arrested. In the Tennessee Farmer, it is stated that from repeated experiments it has been ascertained, that the sowing of two or three bushels of wheat bran upon an acre of young turnips, will effectually secure the crop, as the fly prefers the bran to the Turnips.

**A WHOLE HOG.**—Mr. William Moore of this town killed on Saturday last, a hog, of native breed, twenty-two months old, which weighed when dressed, seven hundred and four pounds!—*Barre Gaz.*

There was a great hog killed in Geneva, Cayuga County, last week. The hog weighed alive 1108 pounds, and dressed 1040 pounds; length, from the root of the tail to the end of the nose seven feet and eight inches; height, three feet and nine inches; girth, six feet and five inches. The age of the hog was 2 years and 11 months.



**CHURNING.**—If after cream has been churned a proper time, no signs of butter appear, sprinkle powdered Saleratus over it at the rate of a spoonful to two gallons of cream, it is best at first to put in but half the quantity, and then churn a few minutes, when if the Butter does not come the remainder may be added.—*Genesee Farmer.*

**NOW IS THE SEASON.**—Deaths by drowning is of frequent occurrence and a little pains taken in learning to swim would prevent many accidents of that kind. Every young man should learn to swim. The exercise is healthy, invigorating and useful; no excuse can be offered for neglecting it. Let boys at first secure the aid of some expert swimmer to accompany them and in a short time they will be able to go alone.

**AGRICULTURAL STOCK FOR SALE.**

To be Sold at Public Auction, by order of the Central Board of Agriculture, in the corner field opposite the Hon Jas. McNab's, on the street leading to Fresh Water Bridge, at 11 o'clock, on Friday, the fifth day of August next,

**THE CANADIAN STALLION "MONTREAL,"**

Imported by the Board in 1841. This beautiful animal is about 14½ hands high, six years old, of a dark brown colour, and cost with the expenses of importation about £100. He may at present be seen on application to Samuel Chipman, Esq., Cornwallis.

*ALSO,*

2 superior South Down RAMS, 20 Rams and 5 Ewes of the black-faced Highland and Cheviot breeds, recently imported from Greenock—with 25 fleeces of Wool shorn from the same.

The Horse and Sheep will be exhibited in the above field at the time of sale. Farmers desirous of improving their flocks are advised to avail themselves of so good an opportunity of procuring a superior description of animals. Terms, cash.

Halifax, July 16, 1842.

**CARDING & SPINNING, WEAVING, Fulling, Milling, Dyeing, Dressing, &c. &c.**

At Fort Sackville Woollen Mill,—Near Halifax.

**RARE CHEANGES**

**NOVA SCOTIA WOOL** manufactured into Broad and Narrow Cloths, Pilot Cloths, Tweeds, Blankets, Flannels, &c. &c., and warranted to wear twice as long as any imported Goods of the same quality!

GEORGE EASTWOOD begs to inform the Farmers of Nova Scotia and of the Provinces generally, that his new Woollen Mill will be ready to go into operation early in July, and that he will there receive Wool, and manufacture it into

Broad Cloths, any colour,	at 6s. 3d. per yard, or
Narrow,	at 3s. 1½d. ...
Pilot Cloths, common colours,	at 5s. 6d. ...
"    "    dark Indigo Blue,	at 6s. 6d. ...
Tweeds, any colour,	at 2s. 0d. ...
Blankets, from four to ten quarters wide, and from 4 to 12 quarters long,	at 1s. 6d. per lb.
Flannel,	at 0s. 9d. per yard,
Do., coloured,	at 1s. 0d. ...

1 pound of clean Lamb's Wool will make 2½ yards of good stout Flannel. Wool may be sent in the fleece: it will be sorted, picked, and greased, without charge.

Payment may be made in Money or Wool, at the option of the owner.

For the accommodation of the Shore Farmers, Wool may be left in care of Mr. Joseph Crouch, at his Auction Mart, Lower Water Street, Halifax, who will forward it to be worked up, and deliver the Goods when finished.

Fort Sackville, June 15, 1842.

3m.

**PROSPECTUS.**

**THE COLONIAL FARMER,**

VOLUME II.

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Six copies of the Colonial Farmer, and one copy of Agricola's works.....	1 11
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In order to put the *Colonial Farmer* in more immediate connection with the Central Board, and to hold a more frequent intercourse with Agriculturists and Agricultural Societies, the sub-editor has determined to publish the above paper—(half its present size)—every fortnight, instead of monthly, as heretofore. It has been urged to this course by numerous influential agricultural friends, and he believes it will meet with general approbation from its patrons.

The circulation of the work is rapidly increasing, and every exertion will be used by the publisher so to improve the time to time as to make it more worthy of support. The opinions of practical farmers—and the press, however, at the present time, are so flattering, that the Publisher cannot shut his eyes to the fact, that the superiority of a periodical, almost exclusively devoted to the interests of the Agriculturist, over all others, is no distant day, be more generally felt and acknowledged.

The publisher is not sufficiently egotistical to assert that he will make the *Colonial Farmer* the best Agricultural paper in British North America—but he will endeavor, so far as practical science, and industry are concerned—to make it second to none. Well written original Essays will be procured, and appropriate selections made from the latest and best Agricultural works published in England and the United States, and attention will be paid to the publication of new inventions, and improvements in Agricultural Implements. In addition, each number will contain a statement of market prices of produce.

At least one number in each month will be embellished with executed cuts of animals or machinery—as arrangements have been entered into to secure this desideratum.

Secretaries of Agricultural Societies, and Post Masters, throughout the Provinces are requested to act as Agents.

Any paper publishing this Prospectus one week, and sending us a copy—will receive our thanks, and be entitled to the price for one year.

RICHARD NUGENT, Proprietor.

Halifax, April, 1842.

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TITUS SMITH, EDITOR, R. NUGENT, PROPRIETOR.

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