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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 1, 1842. NO. 1.

THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY 1, 1842.

FECTS OF BURNING NEW CLEARED GROUND.

The common practice of burning the surface of newly cleared land is a species of running in debt, at a most usurious interest. that is accounted well burnt; that is to say, that has the surall blackened, and all the leaves and dead twigs consumed, er fails to give a large crop in proportion to the quality of the and if not of extraordinary quality, it never fails to be, within n years, mostly covered with Golden Maidenhair Moss, (Polyum), with so little grass upon it that it is not worth fencing. e extraordinary fertility and the rapid exhaustion of burnt land e not been explained, and depend upon causes yet to be disred. It is certain it is not the effect of the Potash, for a much ter quantity of ashes spread upon the ground will hardly pro- the same fertility, and will not impoverish the soil at all. The surface of the burnt land is moist resting on the damp earth. fire is above. A considerable portion of the gaseous or aeriform ter produced by the fire must be condensed by the surface soil g being cool, will operate like the worm of a still. During combustion of vegetable matter a large quantity of pyrolignous is formed strongly impregnated with the bituminous empyreuic oil. It is probably to these substances that the effect is g; it being nearly the same that is produced by applying too e a quantity of fish, nightsoil, or salt, which will produce an ense crop, followed by sterility for many years after. It is sible that all these substances possess the power of rendering ilable matter soluble in either water or air, and that when too ch is applied, a much greater quantity than the crop can consume g set loose, it is carried off by the water and the air. An avaous and dishonest tenant sometimes when his lease is nearly exd, ploughs up all the grassland and dries and burns the sward, obtaining a large crop, and nearly ruining the farm; but no who understands farming ever treats his own land in this way, he practice of burning woodland is of the same nature. Many ral meadows have been ruined by burning. Persons unacated with farming, like many who have settled in this province, ring that a great crop of grass was procured by the burning e time it was cleared, have continued to burn the stubble every g, if the weather permitted, till in the course of a few years eadow ceased to produce grass. There are certain manures h are extremely useful, but in their application the axiom of Grecian Sage, "Not too much," should always be remembered. ilsoil and urine fertilize the soils of China and Flanders; the of fish, in Holland; lime in England and France, and seaweeds in many countries have been found very good manures, yet we have seen land impoverished by using too large quantities of them The products of burning affect the soil in the same manner, and require the same cautions. The less fire the better in clearing hardwood land, and alder swamps, but if a person should wish to improve a piece of very barren land, covered with nearly a foot of turf, he need not fear that any injury will result from burning the *surface* thoroughly, although there is a great loss in breaking up, drying, and burning the whole of the turf. A century back, but very little of the soil of the sandy pine plains was cultivated along the valley of Connecticut River, but after that period as the better soils were taken up, some persons attempted to raise wheat on the pine plains. They girdled the trees in the winter, cutting no more down than were required to make a fence about the field. They then fenced the ground, and in the spring ploughed a strip about a rod wide, adjoining the inside of the fence. In the following month of August, the girdled trees were all dead, and the ground was burnt over, care being taken that the fire did not cross the strip that was ploughed and run into the green woods, the land was then sowed with winter wheat and generally yielded 20 bushels to the acre, of the best quality. A few more crops were taken, which rapidly diminished in produce, till the land being exhausted it was allowed to become a common, and after the lapse of a considerable number of years, was overgrown with a thicket of Shrub Oak, a bush about the size of our upland Alder; upon clearing this off, it would again give one good and two or three small crops. After this practice began to spread, it was found that in many instances the land was so barren that even the first crop did not pay the cost; and it was soon discovered that where people had been in the habit of burning their plains over in the spring every sixth or seventh year, the land was not worth cultivating, although the fires were so light that they did not injure the trees; but that all the plains which had never been burnt would give a good crop; it was also observed that when fires were allowed to run into the woods and burn off the leaves on the better soils, a considerable injury was done to the soil, which it required a number of years to recover from. If woodland is allowed to remain for one season after it is cut down exposed to the sun, the leaves will be so much decayed that it will bear sowing with grain and grass seed without burning, and will continue to produce grass worth mowing twice as long as the ground that has been well burnt.

PASTURING RICH LAND.

In Britain where enormous rents are paid for land there are large tracts highly cultivated which are occupied for pastures. Here it is generally the custom to pasture only such lands as were either never cultivated, or else worn out grounds, which have become barren for want of manure. The only rich pasture for our cattle is the aftergrass of the mowing land, into which they are rarely turned till the month of September. Most of our farmers are terrified at the idea of giving up a part of their best mowing ground for pasturing; they cannot, they say, spare the hay; but the practice in other countries seems to have proved that on some soils, the farmer who constantly pastures one-third of his best land, raises a larger crop from the remaining two-thirds than he could from the whole, when constantly occupied by a rotation of green crops, grain, and

grass for mowing. It has been observed in Scotland that land which when first broken up and well manured, yielded from two to three tons of Clover to the acre, will not after the lapse of a number of years give, even when well manured, above half that quantity, but if it be then pastured for four or five years, and then broken up, it will again give large crops. There are, it is believed, few old farmers here, who do not know of tracts which have for many years been constantly occupied with either grain, potatoes or grass for mowing, and which now give much smaller crops of hay than they did formerly, although the soil does not appear to be impoverished. Many appear to be anxious for the breeds of the short horn Durham cattle, and the Dishley Sheep, but these animals will be found any thing but profitable if left to get their living in our common pastures. They have been accustomed to feed on grounds which would have yielded one or two tons of hay to the acre; and on such pasturage give more flesh in proportion to the food they consume than any other breed, but in poor pastures they will be lean where the hardiest of our own cattle would be fat. A rich pasture will always be found the best for cows kept for the dairy, and for bringing forward cattle designed to be sold to the butcher early in the season; as the cows will give a much greater proportion of butter and cheese, and the cattle will always command a higher price than those which are sold late in the fall. These advantages will be found to make a considerable proportion of the balance required to counterpoise the loss of the hay which the pasture would have produced; but the great advantage is, that pasturing for four or five years renews the land, and makes it produce every kind of crop as well as ever it did. If the soil should be of that description that is helped by lime, there is no time more suitable for applying it than when the old pasture is broken up. The Couch grass that was in the ground will have disappeared, and have been replaced by foxtail, white clover, and sweet-scented spring grass, with a mixture of the small redtop, and two or three kinds of poa, or green grass, which are much more easily mastered by cultivation than the couch. The thick sward of the pasture will contain such a quantity of grass roots that the soil for three years will be so mellow, that it will stand excessive wet, or drought, much better than a soil containing no perceptible portion of undecayed vegetable matter.

One reason of the change in the soil effected by pasturing, undoubtedly is, that it destroys a great number of mischievous insects who cannot live there as they do in the cultivated ground. Among these we may reckon the wire-worm, and the very small worm which forms knots on the roots of the red clover; but in addition to this there is an accumulation of certain substances necessary to the crops, which had been exhausted by cultivation, and which were not replaced by the manures that had been applied.

No top-dressing should ever be given to pastures except lime or wood ashes. A dressing of rank manure produces grass, which, although it will fatten cattle, exposes them much to disease, if not made into hay, but whenever a rich pasture begins to fail considerably, it should be ploughed up and cultivated.

SWALLOWS.

What has become of our Swallows? they should have arrived long ago, yet we do not see the hundredth part of our usual number. *The past winter has been unusually mild, and the ground* bare of snow through the greater part of it. Considering their habits it is possible that an untoward accident may have destroyed them. From the great numbers that have been found in a single hollow tree it appears probable that all the swallows of a considerable district winter in one place. More than 60 years ago two barrels were found in a torpid state in a hollow oak felled by woodcutters on the Jersey shore near New York. About fifty years back there was a Swallow tree standing at Litchfield, a village on the Mohawk River, upon the German Flats. It was preserved by the owner when he cleared the land, he having discovered that it was occupied by the swallows, a very great number were observed to enter it at the time that they left their breeding places, and in the spring they were observed to come out on a very warm day, and return to the tree at night, where they often remained for a number of days if the weather became colder, but when the usual season arrived, they came out, broke into flocks, and flew to their usual breeding places.

Two or three years ago a very large hollow Birch in Dorchester being observed early in the spring to have Swallows about it, and came out from holes in the tree, some young men undertook to cut it down, when an immense number of swallows, sufficient, in the imagination to have filled puncheons, rushed out with a tumultuous noise, which they compared to thunder, produced by their wings as they flew off. If our Swallows were all sleeping in a hollow tree which should be overthrown by a gale in December, it is probable that the greater part would perish.

It appears certain that the animals who remain torpid in winter either do not then breathe, or do not in breathing in that state, discharge *carbonic acid gas, as they always do in summer* whether sleeping or waking. We have seen a hollow pine with the cavity completely filled with Bats, who would certainly have died of suffocation in five minutes, if they had been crowded into the same place after they were awakened by the warm weather.

HINTS TO OVERSEERS OF ROADS, BY AN OLD ROAD-MAKER.

In repairing roads never use any portion of the grassy or mossy turf that covers the surface, nor any of the soft soil which has been washed into the ditches. These materials only serve to make dust in summer, and mud in the spring and fall.

If a soil mixed with a considerable portion of rusty slate gravel can be found within a reasonable distance, it should always be used to cover the faces of hills composed of blue whinstone gravel or small stones, mixed with sand, as in dry weather on these hills the surface always becomes loose, and makes a bad road, but the slate gravel will continue solid and smooth.

In an open winter when the ground frequently freezes and thaws alternately, while bare of snow, ruts will be formed in pretty good roads; these ought to be levelled soon after the frost has all left the ground, as a man can then, before the earth has become very firm, go over a great space in a day with a hoe, and this wet earth will very quickly become solid.

Make frequent cuts upon the face of a long hill to turn the water from the road; for if this is not done, a brook will be collected in the ditch in a heavy shower which will damage the road.

If the Overseer has a man or two of his own, who are bound to perform statute labour, he should reserve a part of their work to be performed late in the fall, in repairing the places where channels are beginning to form on the faces of hills, which are exposed to become water-courses in the rainy season. This practice will save considerable labour the following season.

Let the man who is employed to spread the gravel carried up the road, have a rake, and when he has spread a load, he should rake all the small stones into the ruts and centre of the road, *before* the next load, in spreading which he covers them. By proceeding in this manner the surface is left smooth, and the small stones are left imbedded in the place where they are the most useful.

Where it is necessary to have small drains across a road, never cover them with pickets if flag stones can be procured within two miles: but if pickets must be used let them be first covered with brushwood boughs and then with not less than eight inches of earth to prevent them from rising with the frost. There are some (otherwise) good roads, which disgrace their makers by having every half mile a lump of pickets placed across them which give such tremendous jolts that they sometimes break the axletrees of loaded carriages, besides being extremely unpleasant to all who are riding in carriages of any kind. These drains are generally made too small; it should be remembered that there are some extraordinary floods.

To break a large blue whinstone dig a narrow hole beside it nearly to its bottom; a fire may then be kept in this ditch without a great quantity of fuel which will soon shiver the stone. This job should always be given to an idle noisy man if there should be such a one in the party, because you can in this way keep him where he will not delay better men, by his talking.

The most work is done when the men are divided into small parties, but there should always be one smart active man in each party.

It is always best for the overseer, before he commences his work, to go over the roads to see where the labour will be most skilfully applied, and also to look out for the proper places to procure materials, especially gravelly soil for covering, which is more readily found by digging into it a little, than by only inspecting the surface.

Should the overseer have among his neighbours a bustling, amicious man, always ready to oppose and quarrel with everything which he is not the manager, he would generally act wisely to invite that person to walk with him over the roads, and assist him in planning his work: Besides receiving some useful information from him, he would generally find that, in this case, his wrangling neighbour would almost certainly approve of all his plans, and be the most active person in carrying them into effect.

BROKEN-WINDED HORSES.

Broken wind is by far the most frequent among the hardy round limbed horses that are "ribbed home,"—that is to say, those that have the hindmost rib very close to the hip bone. This is manifestly a hereditary complaint, and neither horse or mare that is broken-winded ought to be used for breeders. They most frequently lose their wind about the time they are completely grown, but not far from eight years old. The peculiar cough that precedes the disease may often be perceived at five years old, when it will occasionally suddenly attack them, and as suddenly cease. Upon opening horses that were broken-winded, a part of the air vesicles of the lungs have been found ruptured, and in some cases a portion of the midriff very thin, and stretched beyond its proper size. As these horses, if otherwise strong and healthy, which is often the case, continue while they live to mend in their wind, although they never completely recover, it has been supposed that the liver and lungs increase in size after this accident so as to give nearly as much support to the heart and lungs as they had when the midriff was ruptured—it having been found that the liver of a horse which had long been affected with this complaint, was frequently nearly double the usual size.

Broken wind may be distinguished from thick wind by the following thing. In thick wind the breathing is rapid and laborious, but the drawing in the breath and breathing it out are equally so, and occupy precisely the same time. In broken wind the breath is drawn in by one effort; it is breathed out by two, occupying double the time.

This disease cannot be completely cured, but by proper treatment it may be palliated so far as to make the horse useful,—and there is reason to think that it may be prevented, in many cases, by the same management. The horses most exposed to it are those descended from a broken-winded horse or mare, and among these, those which live mostly on hay or grass, with very little grain. The bulk of the horse's food should be diminished,—he should have less hay and more oats, with a mash of scalded bran occasionally, where nothing more suitable can be procured; but carrots are better, perhaps, than any other moist food in this case. He should be allowed to eat and drink a small quantity often, but should not be allowed to drink as much as he pleases till night, when his work is done, his largest feed of grain should also be given at night. He should not be allowed to feed upon rank after-grass late in the season, when it has been exposed to considerable frost,—and, which is of most importance, he should, if possible, be constantly employed at moderate work, for allowing him to remain idle for a considerable time always increases the difficulty of breathing; but broken-winded horses, when *constantly* employed as draught horses, are often as useful as ever they were.

STRANGLES.

This is a swelling in the channel under the jaws, which suppurates, and breaks, discharging a considerable quantity of matter, when it quickly heals, and the horse is never again affected with it. It is believed by many in England not to be contagious, but it may be observed that it was for a long time unknown near Halifax, and that when it appeared it spread rapidly among the horses, proving a very infectious disease. It destroyed a considerable number, the mortality being undoubtedly much increased by the remedies used by the owners, to most of whom the disease was wholly unknown.

In a number of cases the swelling appeared just below the ears on each side, and never suppurated. When nothing was done in this case, these swellings slowly disappeared, but in several cases not till the horse's flesh and strength were considerably reduced. When the swellings were removed by applying vitriol, alum, goulard water, &c., the horse lost his appetite and wasted away, the hair falling off in many places before he died.

In some fatal cases the swelling commenced on the breast, or foot, forming ulcers which discharged a pasty matter, but never healed,—and a small number, who had been exposed to the contagion, were attacked with a kind of atrophy, losing their flesh, strength and appetite without ever having any external swelling, appearing exactly like those that had their swellings removed by repellent medicines. One horse in this state, and another who had lost his appetite, strength and part of his hair, in consequence of having swellings under the ears scattered by repellents, as they are called, were cured by giving them a heaped teaspoonful of antimony, the same quantity of powdered gum guiacum, and a large spoonful of flour of sulphur daily.

When the swelling appears in its usual situation, under the jaws, it generally does well if let alone; but in a few instances it has produced suffocation. The horse will be very thirsty, and should have water held up to his head very frequently, for he cannot swallow with his nose held low,—nor will he, though thirsty, drink much at a time, as swallowing gives him great pain. A little bran and oatmeal should be given him, and, when grass cannot be procured, a little chaff made by cutting hay very short, may be mixed with half the quantity of bruised oats, or one fourth of oatmeal, and scalded with boiling water. Of this they will generally take a little, and they do not appear to have an appetite for much food

while the throat is much swelled. They should not be bled; but by laying a blister upon the swelling, the throat is somewhat relieved, and the difficulty of swallowing abated. As most horses in Europe have the Strangles at some time in their lives, the practice of inoculating, either with the matter from the sore or that which runs from the nostrils, has been adopted in some places on the continent. It is said to produce a much milder form of the disease.

THE WEATHER—JUNE 28TH.

Since the commencement of June the weather has been colder than usual, and very wet: this will probably prevent the Grasshoppers from being so numerous as they were last year in some places. With our neighbours the season has been much more unfavourable. In many parts of New England, and in the western part of New York State, *snow has fallen in June*, and severe frosts have cut down the Indian corn and every other crop that frost can kill. At Washington it is uncommonly cold for the time of year. It may be well for our farmers to consider that it is very possible that provisions may not go a-begging next winter. Buckwheat generally succeeds, when sowed as late as the 20th of July in places not exposed to early frosts.

When you have sowed Turnip seed in drills, upon ridges, cover the seed very slightly by drawing the back of a hay rake diagonally along the drills, and then walk twice through each drill, stepping only the length of the foot, if you have no roller. This will make the ground along the drill so close and compact, that it will generally be moist, and greatly diminish the injury to the young plants from the ground flea, for this insect will not set upon damp ground.

SEED POTATES.—Potatoes planted after the 20th of June will make better seed than those which are planted early in the season, as soft unripe potatoes always grow most freely. It is particularly necessary that those of the early varieties which are designed for seed should be planted late.

TO DIVEST MILK AND BUTTER OF THE TASTE OF TURNIPS, CABBAGE, &c. upon which the cows have fed, put into each bucket of milk, when fresh drawn from the cows, one pint of boiling water. The heat of the water dispels the odour of the turnip, which becomes volative as the temperature of the milk is increased. This has been practised and proved to be effectual by the writer, in cases where the cows have been fed two or three months in the year upon Swedish turnips.—*Buel.*

The milk of Cows who run abroad in this Province in the months of April and May frequently acquires an unpleasant taste from their feeding on the buds and young shoots of the red-berried Elder. It is probable that this might be removed by the same management. T. S.

WARTS ON PLUM TREES.—A writer in a late number of the *New England Farmer*, says:—"I have a large and beautiful tree, which I have kept in a healthy condition, while those of my neighbors are almost entirely destroyed. I object to the practice of cutting off the limbs, as the extract in your paper directs, unless they are very small—as this would soon hurt the looks of the tree. Take a sharp knife, when the excrescences first appear, and shave them close to the wood, being particular to scrape out every particle of the gummy substance. Cover the wound with grafting composition, and it will soon heal over. I know of no other remedy so effectual as this, and doubt not if your subscribers will faithfully try this method, that they will preserve their trees from this terrible disease.

"Now is about the time they [the warts?] make their appearance. They are nearly the same color of the bark, and if not closely examined, are not easily detected."

From the Boston Cultivator.

THE FARMERS PRAYER.

Thou great Creator of this earth;
That gave to every seed its birth,
By whom our fields with showers are blest
Regard the Husbandman's request.

I'm going now to till my ground,
And scatter there my seed around
Which I no more expect to see,
Unless thy blessing go with me.

In vain our seed around we throw,
In vain we harrow when we sow
Except thou dost our labors bless
And give the grain a due increase.

Not one of all my barn supplies
Will ever from the ridges rise
Unless thy blessings do pervade,
The buried corn and shoot the blade.

Let then thy blessing Lord attend
On all the labors of my hand,
That I with joy may reap and mow,
A rich return from what I sow.

Open the windows of the sky,
And shower down plenty from on high,
With fat of earth the seed sustain,
And raise a spear from every grain.

Let not our sins thy vengeance move,
To turn our Heaven to brass above,
Or harden into iron our earth
And o'er our fields to spread a dearth.

But pour in season on our grain
The former and the latter rain,
And in proportion due, supply
The needful change of wet and dry.

Forbid the vermin to devour,
Forbid the mildews blasting shower,
Forbid the tempest to destroy
My growing crop and promis'd joy.

Crown with thy goodness Lord the year,
And let thy blessings round appear,
Let vales be clothed with grass and corn
And hills let various flocks adorn.

Give to the sons of men their bread,
Let beasts with fat'ning grass be fed,
All things in plenty, Lord provide,
That all our wants may be supplied.

Give us plenty, Lord, we pray,
From fields of corn, from meadows, hay,
Of fruits, from orchards grateful stocks,
Of milk, from all the milky flocks.

Thus Lord, vouchsafe to bless our land
And every work we take in hand,
That with uplifted hands we may
Return thee praises night and day.

Malden, April 4, 1842.

That Salt is beneficial to domestic animals, seems to be unanimously admitted by the general practice of giving it to them at shorter or longer intervals. We have abundant evidence that it tends to preserve health, and even to restore it in many cases when it has been impaired. Its effects upon the animal system are believed to be pretty uniform upon man and beast. What then is the form in which we prefer it? With our daily food. Why is it not the equally grateful and beneficial if administered daily to our cattle? If at all times accessible, they will never take it to excess, at least I have never known them to do so in twelve years experience: during this period I have had troughs with salt in them constantly *under my sheds;—and no disease, not even the black tongue,* has shewn itself among them.—*Buel.*

THE DAIRY.

We find in the last *Central N- York Farmer* an article on the Management of the Dairy, from which we take the following instructive extracts:—

And first, as to the milk room. For this a dry airy cellar is undoubtedly to be preferred. In Holland, and in some parts of this state, the practice of setting the pans on a stone or brick floor, in the bottom of the cellar, prevails, and is probably the best that can be adopted. Suitable shelves or tables answer a good purpose, and do not require as much hard labor.

Churning the milk is highly recommended by many dairymen, and it is probable that by this method a greater quantity and better quality of butter is obtained. For the particulars of this process the reader is referred to the extract from the letter of Mr. Peters, in our last number. When the milk is not churned it should be set in pans in a room the temperature of which is such that the cream will all rise and the milk coagulate in about forty-eight hours. It should then be skimmed and the cream placed in stone pots until ready for churning, which should in warm weather be performed as often as once in two days. When large dairies are kept it is best to churn every day. The butter must be freed from buttermilk, either by rinsing in water or working with the butter ladle, the salt applied, and set in some cool place in the cellar until next day, when it should be again worked over, and the buttermilk all extracted, when it will be ready for packing in the tub for market. Butter packed in kegs of the kind recommended in the article entitled "Preparation of Butter for Market," in our first number, will undoubtedly keep better and command a higher price in market than when packed in the ordinary way, we mean in Welch tubs. More, however, depends on the quality of the article than the manner in which it is put up, and it is hoped that every farmer who has any regard either for his own interest or for his reputation as a dairyman, will resolve at once to make none but a *first rate* article, and we shall see whether buyers will make that distinction between the different qualities which justice to the good dairyman demands.

During all the losses and vexations to which butter dealers have been subjected within the last three years, good butter has almost uniformly commanded fair prices, and the loss has been mostly on that of inferior quality. Experience is said to be the best teacher, and we should suppose that those who have lost so much money on poor butter, would be extremely cautious about buying bad butter in future.

The following statements were furnished the State Society by Messrs. Lansing and Merrifield, who obtained the first and second premiums of that Society at its annual meeting in January last.—

Mr. Lansing's statement:

1. The number of cows kept is ten.

2. Keep them stabled through the inclement season; feed them from three to four times per day with good hay or green stalks; when near coming in, add some oats, barley, or corn cracked. In summer, good pasture, with living water accessible at all times, and plenty of salt.

3. Treatment of milk and cream before churning.—Strain the milk in tin pans; place them in a cool cellar for the cream to rise. When sufficiently risen, separate the cream from the milk; put it in stone jars, well prepared, before churning.

4. The mode of churning in summer.—Rinse the churn with cold water; then turn in the cream, and add to each jar of cream put in the churn full one-fourth of the same quantity of cold water. The churn used is a patent one, moved by hand with a crank, having paddles attached, and so constructed as to warm the milk, if too cold, with hot water, without mixing them together. The milk and cream receive the same treatment in winter as in summer; only in churning use hot instead of cold water, if necessary.

5. The method of freeing the butter from the milk, is to wash the butter with cold water till it shows no color of the milk by the use of a ladle.

6. Salting of the butter.—Use the best kind of Liverpool sack salt; the quantity varies according to the state in which the butter is taken from the churn—if soft, more, if hard, less, always taking the taste for the surest guide. Add no saltpetre nor other substances.

7. The best time for churning is the morning, in hot weather, and keep the butter cool till put down.

8. The best mode of preserving butter in and through the summer and winter, is as follows:—The vessel is a stone jar, clean and sweet. The mode of putting it down is to put in a churning of butter and put on strong brine, let it remain on till the next churning is ready to put down, and so on till the jar is filled; then cover it over with fine salt, the same to remain on till used.

Watervliet, January, 1842. JACOB T. LANSING.

Mr. Merrifield's statement.

Number of cows.—Eight.

Mode of keeping.—In pasture, in summer; on hay, straw, and roots in winter.

Treatment of cream and milk.—Milk strained into tin pans, and placed in the cellar.

Mode of churning.—The cream only churned in a Dutch churn.

Method of freeing the butter from the milk.—By pressure.

Quantity and kind of salt.—Liverpool sack, 1 oz. to the pound.

Best time of churning.—Morning, in summer.

Best mode of keeping.—In the cellar, in summer, in wood.

In winter, our milk stands twelve hours; is then removed to the stove, and scalded over a slow fire to near boiling heat; the pans removed to the cellar to cool; the cream only churned. The butter placed in the coldest part of the house, will keep good any length of time. WILLIAM MERRIFIELD.

Guilderland, January, 1842.

CHEESE.

Mr. Stephen Scott of Lee, whose reputation as a dairyman is not surpassed by any farmer in this vicinity, has furnished us with the following account of his method of Cheese making:—"The night's milk should be skimmed in the morning, the cream put in a kettle and warmed until it becomes thin, then fill the kettle with milk and [illegible] all together; add the morning's milk. The rennet should now be put in, in sufficient quantity to cause the milk to coagulate in from half to three quarters of an hour, then break it up carefully with the hands. When settled, dip off the whey and heat a sufficient quantity to scald the curd. If the weather is cool it will need more scalding than in warm weather: keep it well stirred up when scalding, as that the whole may be scalded alike: dip into a sink to cool, and salt, so that it will taste seasoned: press forty-eight hours; turn and rub and grease every day, while young put on as little grease as possible."

Cheeses which are large should be bandaged with thin sheeting to prevent their spreading. Much of the Cheese made in this country is good, but many dairies are of inferior quality. We think many cheese makers commit an error in making cheese too late in the season, in which case it is not properly cured before sending to market, and consequently nearly worthless. We subjoin the following statements of the successful competitors for the premiums paid by the State society at its annual meeting Jan. last.

Messrs. Allen's statement.

Number of cows kept, eleven. Cheese made from two milkings, in the English manner; no addition made of cream. For a cheese of twenty pounds, a piece of rennet about two inches square is soaked about twelve hours in one pint of water. As rennets differ much in quality, enough should be used to coagulate the milk *sufficiently* in about forty minutes. No salt is put *into* the cheese nor any on the outside, during the first six or eight hours it is being pressed; but a thin coat of fine Liverpool salt is kept on the outside during the remainder of the time it remains in press. The cheeses are pressed forty-eight hours under a weight of seven or eight hundred weight. Nothing more is required but to turn the cheeses once a day on the shelves. H. & P. ALLEN.

Duanesburgh, January 17, 1842.

Mr. Hardy's statement.

The number of cows kept is thirty-eight. Cheese made from two milkings—no addition of cream. The quantity of salt used was one tea-cup full to twenty pounds of curd, of common Onondaga salt. The rennet was prepared by soaking one rennet in a jar of five or six quarts, filled with salt and water. From one pint to one quart was used, according to the strength of the rennet, for a cheese of eighty or ninety pounds. The cheeses were pressed in a common wheel and lever press, and pressed two days. The cheeses were taken from the press, and rubbed with annato, soaked in strong ley; then rubbed with whey butter, and turned and rubbed daily through the season with the same. PHINEAS HARDY.

Le Ray, Jeff. Co., January 10, 1842.

In all the operations of the dairy, it is very essential that the ves

sel used, be properly scalded so as to be kept perfectly sweet and pure, for without this precaution it is impossible to make good butter or cheese. The time has gone by when one hundred pounds of butter or two hundred pounds of cheese was considered a fair yield from a cow in a season. With a good selection of cows and good management, from one hundred and fifty to two hundred pounds of butter, or four to five hundred pounds of cheese may be made in a season from each cow. This has been done, and what has once been done can be done again, and there is no part of the country more favorable for the production of butter and cheese than the central and northern counties in this State.

From the American Farmer.

PROTECT THE BIRDS.

The season is now come when the birds begin their labors in our fields and orchards. Many amongst us are well satisfied of the usefulness of these little fellow-laborers, whilst some are not aware of their value and permit them to be disturbed or destroyed. For the benefit of such, the following facts are stated, and every one is urged, as he values his fruit trees and looks for a plentiful harvest, to extend to the birds the protection they so richly merit. Let those who may still doubt, compare the orchards in Medford, Cambridge, &c. in June, with those in West Cambridge, and Lexington, where shooting and bird's-nesting are not permitted. Our most intelligent orchardists are satisfied that the absence, in these last named towns, of the canker-worm, that pest which has cost so much labor and expense, and has ruined so many trees, is owing mainly to the great number of birds which breed, undisturbed, in our fields and orchards.

Let the mischievous loafers, of whatever age, size, condition, or color, who roam about our fields with a musket in their hands, be dealt with according to law, or driven out like vermin, and we shall hear no more complaints that orchards are laid waste by insects and trees destroyed by mice.

FACTS.

"The common Cuckoo is almost the only bird which feeds on the caterpillar: he destroys them in great numbers, eating them voraciously when they are full grown. The numbers of these destructive insects that a few Cuckoos, with their young, will destroy, is incredible."—*Conn. Herald.*

"When the Martins and Swallows were protected," says a Herefordshire farmer, "the hops blossomed in great beauty, and the crop was abundant, whilst there was a general failure with my neighbors, who allowed these birds to be shot and their nests destroyed."—*Jesse.*

"Every Crow requires at least one pound of food a week, and nine tenths of their food consists of worms and insects; 100 Crows then in one season destroy 4780 pounds of worms, insects, and larvæ; from that fact some slight idea may be formed of the usefulness of this much persecuted bird, to the farmer."—*Magazine of Natural History.*

The Blackbird destroys great numbers of grubs, &c. &c.—"Last August, I observed eight or ten Blackbirds busily engaged in the grass-plat front of my house, and the grass where they were seemed dying, as was hinted, from their mischievous operations—and the gun was suggested as the remedy. Suspecting the object of the bird's search, I turned up a piece of turf with the spade, and found it literally swarming with grubs of various sizes. I need not say that they were allowed to pursue their game undisturbed, and that the grass-plat soon regained its verdure. This is another instance of the utility of preserving birds on farms and in orchards and gardens."—*Ibid.*

"The owl renders essential service to the farmer, by destroying mice, rats, and shrews, which infest houses and barns; it also catches bats and beetles.

"To those who seem inclined to extirpate the Blackbird, Wilson justly remarks, as a balance against the damage they commit, the service they perform in the spring season, by the immense numbers of insects and their larvæ which they destroy, as their principal food, and which are of kinds most injurious to the husbandman. Indeed Kalm remarked, that after a great destruction made among these and the common blackbirds for the legal reward of three pence a dozen, the Northern States, in 1749, experienced a complete loss of the grass and grain crops, which were now devoured by insects."

"Up to the time of harvest, I have uniformly, on dissection, found their food to consist of these larvæ, caterpillars, moths and beetles, of which they devour such numbers, that but for this providential economy, the whole crop of grain, in many places, would probably be destroyed by the time it began to germinate." * *

"At this season, to repay the gardener for the tithe of his crop, their natural due, they fail not to assist in ridding his trees of more deadly enemies which infest them, and the small caterpillar, beetles, and various insects now constitute their only food, and for hours at a time they may be seen feeding on the all-despoiling canker-worms, which infest our apple trees and elms."—*Nuttall's Ornithology.*

The Bobolincoln is perhaps next to the Cedar bird or Canada Robin, the greatest destroyer of the canker-worm. Building her nest and rearing her young under the apple trees, as this bird often does, she requires an immense number of worms for their sustenance just at the time they are the most destructive. "I have observed one of these birds," says a neighbor, "go round the limbs of an apple tree in a spiral direction, and destroy in this way every worm on the tree, in an incredibly small time. No man can calculate the value of birds on a farm. I have no doubt but they save me equal to the labor of one man for the season, besides preserving my trees from destruction."

It may be safely said, that in a country so thickly settled as this there are no birds, not excepting the hawks and owls, but are vastly more useful than injurious to man. None of them should, under any pretence, be destroyed.

It is not generally known, that a few only of the hawks and owls destroy poultry. The rough-legged falcon may be observed the whole winter long seated on some small tree watching for mice, of which he destroys great numbers. Those who shoot him, or suffer him to be shot, deserve to have their trees "girdled," by these vermin. The marsh hawk, the common Harrier, and indeed all of this family of birds that comes so fearlessly to our fields and meadows, are equally harmless and useful.

From the Eastern (Maine) Farmer.

SALTPETRE—AS A MANURE.

Much interest is being taken in the use of Saltpetre as a manure—though no experiments seem to have been made in this country of any extent or decisive character, with it. In Europe, formerly it seems to have attracted attention, with favorable results.

George Rimberly communicates the result of experiments made with saltpetre to the Royal Agricultural Society, as follows:—

"As to my own experience, it was in the year 1827 that I first used saltpetre in any quantity, and as it is my constant practice to try every artificial manure by some standard of known value, I manured part of 14 acres of seeds in the autumn of 1826 with ten cart-loads of good dung per acre, leaving a portion in the centre of the field to be dressed with saltpetre in the following spring. The decomposition of the dung, and the protection it had afforded during the winter, caused the clover thus manured to be very rank and forward in growth, and far superior to the unmanured parts, which looked weak and bare. I however waited till the clover had just begun to grow, and then, after having reduced the saltpetre to a fine powder, it was sown by hand on the land left for that purpose. In about a fortnight from that time I went to examine it, and could see distinctly where the saltpetre had been used: it already surpassed the part manured with horse-dung in the breadth of its leaves, and richness of its color, which was changed to a very dark green, and it continued through the season to grow with a luxuriance of vegetation that produced a very large crop of clover, quite equal, if not superior to that of the horse-manure; nor could we distinguish any difference in the value in the succeeding crop of wheat. The saltpetre was used at the rate of 1 cwt. per acre; cost, 26s. 6d. in London, carriage and sowing included, about 29s. per acre. The expense would have been much increased had not the field been near the farm. The trial was on sandy land of moderate quality. I could add a great number more experiments, which would be but a repetition of the above, and I have used it on spring corn with equal success. I also recommended it to a friend, who tried it on oats, barley, and grass, and a few weeks after the application I had an opportunity of inspecting the crops, which were considerably higher and of a much darker green where the saltpetre had been used than the other parts of the fields, and were judged to contain from 8 to 12 bushels of corn more per acre. Its effects were equally striking on the meadow. It was used at 1 cwt. per acre."

Another experiment is given by the Earl of Zetland, he says—

"In May last I sent a ton of the nitrate of soda from London to Upleatham, in the North Riding of Yorkshire. I directed that

ould be tried on wheat, turnips, and meadow-land, at the rate of cwt. per acre. I am now of opinion that it was too late for eat; for, although it appeared to make the straw grow stronger. do not believe there was any material increase in the quantity of ain over the adjoining land which was not manured. For turnips, consider it entirely failed, and was of no use whatever; but on meadow-land its effects were astonishing. In the course of e or ten days after the application it could be seen to an inch here it had been sown; and, on mowing the field, 90 square yards re measured, and the grass carted off as soon as cut, and weighed; e weight was 30 stone, of 14 lbs. to the stone. The same quanty was then measured off that part of the field immediately adjoing, which had not been dressed with the nitrate of soda; that part n cut and weighed in the same manner, and the weight of it was y 14 stone. I must add that the land was of precisely the same ality in the same field, and the whole field had been equally well nured in the winter with good farm-yard manure.

I afterwards had it tried on several meadow-fields after the hay been carried, and the effect was visible by a great increase in growth of the after-grass, and both cattle and sheep seem to it greedily."

SOD FENCE.

We have somewhere read that the peasants, in portions of France, lose their small farms with fences of sods or turf; and that on se fences they grow most of their fuel. Where we met with the ount we do not now recollect; but the perusal left in our memory stinct impression of all that was needful for imitating the process. Last autumn, *the public good*, required the county commissioners open a way through our private domains and impose upon us burthen of constructing 145 rods of fence. We had neither d nor stone for the purpose. Along portions of the line we d a tolerably good upland sward—some of the way was bog adow—and some, a brittle upland soil. In October last, we menced laying up sods—the fence four feet wide at the surface he ground, and two feet wide at 3½ feet from the surface. At ides we trenched from one and a half to two feet in both width depth. So that from the bottom of the ditch to the top of the e was five feet or more. We completed about thirty rods last mn and sowed apple pomace upon it. The boys—and some em full grown—have found it agreeable to make this fence a path through the winter and spring, and have so trodden down overing of the pomace, that we shall have no trees this season. as soon as the road is made, and it is known in the vicinity the top of the fence is planted, we shall have no evil of the kind complain of. The fence itself—though the winter was one to it—has stood well. We have laid the foundation and brought rds completion nearly one hundred rods more. Much of the we are obliged to haul the sods a few rods, and to mix in hard -hummocks, or brake heads, brought from the pasture lands we are breaking up. With one or two layers of these, we can a fence of earth, even where there is little if any sward. at the expense of putting up this kind of fence will be, we have eans of determining accurately. But it will not exceed fifty per rod. It requires the soil of a strip of land a rod wide or , to make such a fence—but this is not all lost land. In three our years it will all grass over, and the fence proper will bear a crop of grass.

ne of our neighbors having watched our operations, and seen our fence stood the winter, has built about 80 rods of such this spring. He had nearly all the way a tolerably good , and an easy subsoil to shovel. His fence was built by the of two men in 11½ days after the ground was plowed. The ing might cost from a dollar to a dollar and a half.

here rocks are abundant, stone wall is the best fence on a farm. re rails and posts are at hand, they do well; but where neither le had conveniently, and where the soil itself admits of being ed into a fence, there the sod fence may be desirable.—*New nd Farmer.*

AVING BEANS.—*J Buel, Esq.*—Dear Sir, The following simad easy method of saving a crop of Beans is worth the price of ears subscription to the *Cultivator*, to every person that never ised it, who wishes to cultivate that valuable crop. By this od Beans planted in a field by themselves may be pulled while nes are entirely green, and will be perfectly cured, no matter wet the weather, and what is more need not be housed or threshed until such time as may be convenient. This is the plan to cure Beans. Take common fence stakes into your bean field, and set them stiff in the ground, at convenient distances apart, which experience will soon show you, and put a few sticks or stones around for a bottom to your stack, and then as you pull an arm-full, take them to the stakes, and lay them around, *the roots always to the stake*, as high as you can reach and tie the top course with a string or a little straw, to prevent them from being blown off, and you will never complain again, "that you cannot raise beans because they are so troublesome to save." They are the easiest crop ever raised to take care of. Try it, and you will then know it, and thank me for telling you of it. Your friend, SOLON ROBINSON.

MANURES.—That Manure is one of the essential agents to increase the crops of the farmer, is admitted by all. Why, then, it may be asked, is it so much neglected, when the means of providing it are so entirely within the reach of every farmer. One reason probably is, that farmers do not adopt a system of operations, by which every thing appertaining to the cultivation of the farm has its proper place and time. Another doubtless is, that too much land is generally under cultivation. So that the labor of the farm engrosses so much time of the farmer, that he cannot prepare manure sufficient and in season for his use. A proper care and attention to the manuring of the land, pursued with regularity and system, upon a farm where no more land is occupied than can be well attended to, would soon render every farm as productive as could be desired. We intend in our next number to give an article on this subject, and endeavor to turn attention to the importance of a thorough and systematic course of improvement in this respect. If it can be shown, as we think it can be, that every farmer of ordinary means, can improve his land and increase his crops by a judicious application of manure, we shall hope a new impulse will be given to our farmers,—and that every one will strive to make the most of the advantages which are at his very door, and wait only for him to avail himself of them.—*Central N. Y. Farmer.*

OVERTRADING.—It was an excellent rule of an ancient Philosopher, when an enemy accused him wrongfully, wholly to disregard the slander: but if justly, quietly to amend his fault. The charge of *overtrading* applied to the people of the United States has certainly much to support it, and it will be wise in us to imitate the philosopher, not to murmur at the accusation, but diligently to endeavour to mend our ways. *To live within our income*, though a trite, is certainly a safe and prudent maxim. If a farmer sells one thousand dollars worth of produce in a year from his farm, and buys sixteen hundred dollars worth of goods and nick-nacks, he is unquestionably *going down hill*, and he may expect, in the words of the Prompter, that *every one will give him a kick*. But if he sells sixteen hundred dollars worth, and expends but one thousand dollars in a year, he is in a *thriving condition*, and every one is disposed to lend him a *helping hand*—so true it is that we are disposed to help others in proportion as they are honestly inclined to help themselves; for those only who can and do help themselves, are likely to requite the favors we render them. If we apply these rules to the national family we shall see that we are in a bad way; for while we sold, or exported, during the last year, but one hundred millions from the national farm, we bought, or imported, one hundred and sixty millions of foreign goods or products—thus running in debt sixty millions in a single year. It requires no great foresight to see that this sort of overtrading will ultimately prove as disastrous to the nation as it would to the individual, and common sense suggests the same remedy for the evil to the nation, that prudence would dictate to the individual, viz. *buy less, and earn and sell more.* —*Cultivator.*

BEWARE OF SALTPETRE, IN THE SALT AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR MEAT BARRELS.—To-day we met an old farmer who was not aware that this article was *as fatal* to swine as arsenic or ratsbane to the human race. Not long since in our absence, our hired man salted a large boiler of swill with some old salt which had been taken from a barrel in which we had pickled our hams. Of three fed with this cooked food, two died. One the man remarked drank freely cold water immediately, and escaped. They could have have taken but a few grains of saltpetre each, yet sudden death was the consequence No censure could attach to the man—he knew saltpetre was fatal, and took this old salt as a matter of economy, not knowing that it contained a particle of saltpetre.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Half of you won't note, though very profitable. Every farmer who has milch cows or other animals on the homestead to feed—ought to plant a piece of corn to be cut two or three times in the course of the season, and fed out to his milch cows and other stock In times of drought and short pastures it will be valuable. An astonishing quantity can be obtained from an acre at the several croppings. Let the land be in good order, and handy, plough deep; make your rows two feet and a half apart; make a broad furrow, fill it well with manure, and sow the southern flat corn thick. This will stand the drought and give a greater crop than our smaller varieties. Try it farmers on a large or small scale, according to your several wants. We know there can be no profit on cows unless they are well fed, or thrift with stock in short pastures.—*Boston Cultivator.*

Caterpillars are likely to be a formidable enemy to fruit trees this season—Now is the time to destroy them before they have completed their work of destruction. It is recommended to take them early in the morning when the nests are full—pull them off and mash them under foot. If their nests are high take a pole with a swop of rough flannel on the end. Dip this in spirits of turpentine and wipe them all off with this. Be assured, if your fruit-trees are good for anything, you will find your reward.—*Ibid.*

On your Plum Trees you see now a great number of large black warts,—cut them all out clean, do not be afraid of hurting the limb—nothing short of the most thorough work will save the trees—gather up what you cut out and burn—we speak from experience.—*Ibid.*

Mode of increasing the growth of Potatoes.—The flowers being cut off as they appeared on the plants, the number of potatoes produced was much greater than were the blossoms remained untouched. Early in October, the stem and leave of the plants which had not borne flowers were strong and green, the other yellow and in a state of decay. The plants which had been stripped of flowers produced (on the same space of ground) about four times the weight of large potatoes, very few small ones being found. Those on which flowers and fruit had been left, produced but a small number of middling sized potatoes, with a great number of small ones, from the size of a common filbert to that of a walnut.

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RICHARD NUGENT,
Proprietor.

Halifax, April, 1842.

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