

Agricultural.

SCIENCE OF FARMING.

BY LEVI HARTLEY.

There are four elementary bodies that enter into the growth and composition of plants, and it is from these the greater part of bulk of plants and animals are composed. These four substances are oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, and nitrogen. The three first of these are known to us in a gaseous form. Carbon is pure charcoal, and when burned it combines with the oxygen of the air in certain and exact proportions, forming carbonic acid. These four are termed by chemists organic bodies, and they are susceptible among themselves (and with the organic constituents of plants) of forming an infinity of chemical combinations, and yielding an endless variety of products.

The atmosphere we breathe, and in which plants grow and live, is composed principally of a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen gases, in the proportion of very nearly, of twenty-one of the former to seventy-nine of the latter. It also contains, as a constituent necessary to the very existence of vegetable life, a small percentage of carbonic acid, on an average of about one twenty-five hundredth part, and however incredible it may seem to those unacquainted with agricultural chemistry, yet it is a fact, that from this source is derived about one half of the solid substance of all plants that grow upon the face of the globe.

At the first view it would seem impossible that this apparently small amount of carbonic acid should be sufficient to support the growth of plants. The carbon found in their solid parts, as it amounts to from forty to fifty per cent, of all trees, plants, and vegetables, in fact, all the food of man and animals, and unquestionably most of this carbon is derived directly from the air, by the agency of the leaves of plants, although there can be no doubt, that a small proportion of it is taken up by the roots mixed with water, and some of the inorganic matters that are in solution, such as potash, lime, &c.

When we reflect that the atmosphere not only entirely surrounds the earth, but extends to a height of about forty-five miles, and that the whole of it is collected in a stratum or bed occupying the lower part of the atmosphere, such a stratum would have the thickness of about thirty feet, and this would be spread over the entire waters of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, the deserts of sand, the frozen regions of the poles, and in fact over every part and place of the globe, and by the wisdom of the Great Creator, the gas is, innumerable was returned to the air as fast as abstracted, by growing plants.

Here, then, our wonder ceases. We know, if we take a given quantity by weight, of well-seasoned wood, and distill it in a close vessel, or burn it in heaps covered over so as to exclude the free access of air, wood charcoal is left behind. When this process is well performed, the charcoal will weigh from forty to fifty per cent as much as the wood did. The charcoal consists of carbon, with a slight admixture of earthy matter and saline matter, which remains behind when the coal or carbon is burned in the open air. When the charcoal or carbon is burned in the open air, it combines with the oxygen of the air, to keep up the combustion, and the whole of the coal enters into a chemical union with the oxygen, and forms carbonic acid, or in other words, carbonic acid consists of oxygen, with a definite or fixed quantity of charcoal or carbon dissolved in it. This gas is composed of two proportions of oxygen and one of carbon. In this state it is taken in by the leaves of plants. The leaves of plants are their lungs, and they possess the power of absorbing from the air carbonic acid, and in daylight it is decomposed, but much more rapidly in the presence of light. When thus decomposed in the leaf, the oxygen is set free, and is again restored to the atmosphere, but the carbon is retained and mingled with the true sap of the plant; and in obedience to those laws of absorption and decomposition, it is made to form a moiety of the endless variety of wood, fruits, vegetables, which are the results of vegetable life.

It may seem a mystery how the leaf of a plant can take from the air the carbonic acid, when in such apparent small quantities and separate the carbon from its oxygen. We grant it is a mystery; but then we know for a certainty the fact of the leaves of plants possessing the power of absorption and decomposition: it is the way the growth of a plant has been provided for—the Creator has so willed it.

Plants take from the atmosphere, by their leaves, carbonic acid, a definite and fixed amount, and restore to it the oxygen that is taken into the lungs of animals, which combines with the carbon of the food, and by the process of respiration is given off to the atmosphere in the form of carbonic acid, the food of plants. It is sometimes said that politicians and gamblers play into each other's hands for their own private good. Animals and plants perform a similar operation; they play into each other's hands for the general good.—*Monthly Visitor.*

From the American Agriculturist.

REMARKS ON TOP DRESSING.

The waste caused by the washing by rains and melting snows in my opinion, is the only objection to putting manure on the surface of the soil. In all other respects I think it decidedly preferable to top-dress, particularly grass lands. If this can be done in the winter, I prefer to haul the manure on the hay is off the ground as possible. At that season the rains are not so heavy as to cause much surface water; but at each snow, five double parts of the manure dissolve, wash down and act immediately on the roots of the plants, causing them to continue their growth, until checked by frost. Should there be an excess of the liquid manure, it will downward lower into the earth at every succeeding shower, and when once deposited there, will never ascend. (We cannot concur in this opinion. Manure may be washed by evaporating in the air, as well as by descending too deep into the earth.) On very porous soils, however, it will sink below, and I have known grassy lands, where rotten manure has been ploughed in before the commencement of the fall rains, and much of its strength washed out of the reach of the roots of most kinds of grain, could not be brought up again without very deep ploughing or by planting, or sowing such kinds of vegetables as possess deep-searching roots.

I strongly advocate top-dressing for winter grain when the snow or frost will admit of getting it on. If the ground is sufficient-

ly hard to bear horses and their loads, no harm will be done, either to the land or team, in the absence of snow. I have seen this experiment tried, in many instances, with great success on stiff clay soils.

I have tried top-dressing on clay meadows, in one instance by applying several loads of manure to the acre, and in another case double the quantity, and in the third instance triple the amount. The former was exhausted the third year—the second produced a good crop the second year, but was exhausted at the end of the season—but in the latter case, the crops were equal for five years! This experiment convinced me practically that there was no loss by the evaporation, and encouraged me to hold the position I now advocate.

W. H. STOTMAN.

DRILLING IN WHEAT.

We are convinced that putting in wheat with a drill is not only the preferable plan, but that a great saving of seed may be effected by it, and an increased product by it obtained. To sow a 100 acre field broadcast, as it ought to be, will require 20 bushels of seed, whereas 120 bushels if put in with the machine, will answer fully as well, thereby saving 75 bushels in seed—100 acres. The ridge raised by the machine protects the plants through the winter, and in spring, the roots should not be thrown out, more, if not most of them, will be covered by the crumbling down of the ridges. All that would be necessary to render this certain, would be, in the spring, to pass a roller over the field, as soon as the frost was out of the ground and the soil dry; as the pressing, or compression of the ridges, would necessarily cover up most of the roots that might be found exposed upon the surface, and thus ensure their taking root and growing.

By such a course, he secures himself against loss alike from his poultry and vermin, and from shrinkage—a loss that we are sure amounts to at least 20 per cent, where the thrashing, cleaning, and sowing has been delayed six or eight months, as is frequently the case.

TURNING OUT GRAIN.—We have ever been the advocate of early thrashing out grain, and equally so that the grower should avail himself of the first opportunity which may present itself of selling a large quantity. By such a course, he secures himself against loss alike from his poultry and vermin, and from shrinkage—a loss that we are sure amounts to at least 20 per cent, where the thrashing, cleaning, and sowing has been delayed six or eight months, as is frequently the case.

ATTENTION SOWING.—It has long been the practice with our people to sow the seeds of certain vegetables in the fall. The onion is often sown as early as September, and we have seen some of the first of November, green with the young sprouts. Gabriel, in a paper on the subject, recommends the sowing of other seeds in Autumn,—the oil of the best carrot, parsnip, &c., and says the seed of all plants will be safe in this way all winter, though the frost should penetrate the soil, where the thrashing, cleaning, and sowing of such plants as a slight frost will cut down.

COMMICALITIES.

REVENUE GENIUS.—A boy, who displayed long, dangly whiskers was asked—
"What's the time of day, Josiah?"
"The lad drew out his watch very ceremoniously, and after looking at the hands, he referred to another boy, and said,
"Is this the figure nine or the figure seven?"
"He was told that it was the figure seven, and he said,
"Well, then, said the genius, "it lacks just about half an inch to eight."
ENRAGED.—We were much amused the other night, says the Louisville Courier, by the resolution of Lewis's Pantheon of the Mississippi River, at a respectable gentleman from the country in the vicinity of Rock River, who a beautiful view is given in this picture. He sat down to write from the air the carbonic acid, when in such apparent small quantities and separate the carbon from its oxygen. We grant it is a mystery; but then we know for a certainty the fact of the leaves of plants possessing the power of absorption and decomposition: it is the way the growth of a plant has been provided for—the Creator has so willed it.

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A CHRISTIAN ROBERT.—An Edinburgh paper gives the following deplorable news: Early on Monday morning, the residence of the Rev. Dr. Leashem, Glasgow, was broken into, and a quantity of money, with a large quantity of wices, was stolen from his cellar.

Two fishermen travelling together to York, in England, happened to pass by a gallows.

"Barney," said one, "where would you be if the gallows had its due?"
"Path," said Barney, "I'd be walking to York all alone by myself to be sure."

The Mexicans, it is said, catch a runaway soldier by throwing a lasso.—*Ex. Paper.*

Very similar to the manner in which old bachelors are taken. They are taken with a Lasso On—*Lynn News.*

"Don't you mistake me for many of them ever after. Isn't it—Saturday Rambler.

FRONTENAC'S ROBERT.—In the St. Louis Record, it is recently, Alexander McMinis was fined \$5 for stealing wood from the steamer Hannibal, and was asked to "look up" for his honor.

"Can't do it," stammered he, "I'm a sailor." "Are you a married man?" inquired the R. Coroner.

"No,—not exactly so—so far gone yet, no."

"Well, I will have to send you to the work house," said the Recorder.

"That's—ain't nothing to get to go to the work house," said Alex. "I'll be used to it; I've—"

"but when you talk of an un-morally old fellow, you're—FRONTENAC'S ROBERT."

"Tell me, will you Peter," said Sam Jones to Peter Gumbo, "what's the name of the man who carries a baby's rick in under his arm?" "Hog's Eye," answered the other.

"Her walks in beauty like a thing of beauty," says the poet. "Why, him means a nigger gal, to be sure, Sam," said Peter; "he meant a white gal, of course he'd say like a thing of beauty."

"Holla! you Gumbo Squash! wherefore you look on so solemnly? Is the factious salutation from one free black gentleman in the streets of New York to another who was carrying a baby's rick in under his arm?" "Hog's Eye," answered the other.

A little girl hearing it remarked that all people had once been children, artlessly inquired, "Who took care of the babies?"

PROSPERUS.

OF THE VICTORIA GAZETTE.

MR. AND MRS. MOODIE, EDITORS.

The Editors of the Victoria Gazette will devote all their talents to produce a useful, entertaining, and cheap Periodical, for the Canadian People; which may afford amusement to both old and young. Sketches and Tales, in verse and prose, Moral Essays, Statistics of the Colony, &c., will be selected articles from the most popular authors of the day, will form the basis of the Magazine.

The independent and rising country, to whose service they are proud to dedicate their talents, will cheerfully lead in every undertaking. The low price of the Magazine, which may afford amusement to both old and young. Sketches and Tales, in verse and prose, Moral Essays, Statistics of the Colony, &c., will be selected articles from the most popular authors of the day, will form the basis of the Magazine.

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IMPORTANT to the PUBLIC.

EZRA HOPKINS, of West Flamborough (Hamilton P. O.) having for a few months past been acting as Traveling Agent for the **WASHINGTON MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.**, takes the present opportunity of thanking the inhabitants of the Wellington and Huron Districts for the very liberal patronage and encouragement which he has received at their hands; and has now the pleasure of informing them that he is fully authorized to act also for the **GENESEE MUTUAL**, the former Institution being exclusively devoted to the Insurance of Farm Stock and Buildings, the latter being devoted to the Insurance of all kinds of property in Towns, and both on very moderate terms.

The Washington Company offers peculiar advantages to the Agricultural Interest, taking ordinary risks at one per cent, doing an immense amount of business, having a very large cash capital on hand, and promptly settling all claims against the Institution. Capital, \$348,000; Members, 37,986,—both being daily increasing.

The Genesee Company is intended to insure against Fire in Towns and Villages, and the rates are consequently higher in proportion to the risks being greater; but in consequence of the large amount of business which has hitherto been required than the first payment, for during the past thirteen years the Assessment has only averaged two per cent, although doing that term of some of the most disastrous fires ever known to have occurred.

Capital, \$40,125. Now it is over \$80,000. **EZRA HOPKINS,** Agent for the Wellington & Huron Districts July 18th, 1849. 2-125-30

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.

The Subscriber begs leave to inform the Inhabitants of the District of Huron, and the neighboring Districts, that he has Established himself in Stratford, and is prepared to give Plans and Specifications of Public or Private Buildings, Bridges, and all kinds of Works, and will take the superintendance of such Executions, at the most reasonable terms.

His thorough knowledge of this profession, and his practice as Builder, qualifies him for undertaking any and every kind of work. **PETER FERGUSON,** Builder, &c. &c. Stratford, C. W. Stratford, March 16th, 1849. 2-17

AGENCY FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE CROWN LANDS, IN THE WELLINGTON & HURON DISTRICTS.

The undersigned, Agent appointed by His Excellency the Governor General for the Settlement of the Crown Lands in the Townships of Glenelg, Bontick, Brant, Greenock, Kintore, and Kintore, in the Counties of Waterloo and Huron, hereby gives Notice to all persons willing and able to purchase any of the lands, that he will receive the application of all persons, who will present himself provided with a Certificate of probity and sobriety, and having the means of providing a house and the purchase of his land sufficient to maintain his life. The holder of that Certificate shall mention to the Agent (whose name will be given to him) his name, age, condition, trade or profession, whether he is married, and if so, the name and age of his wife, how many children he has, the name and age of each of them, where he is from, whether he has some other property and in what Township he wishes to settle.

The holder of the Location Ticket must take possession within one month after the date of the Ticket, and to put in a state of cultivation at least Twelve Acres of the land in the course of four years—unless he be a settler, in which case he shall be bound to give an obligation that will secure in their season. The holder must have a ring or screw in their nose, with a rope or chain attached, to prevent accidents.

The prize for Horses is not awarded to any animal, unless it be shown to be a pure bred horse, and of the best quality. The quantity of Grain and seeds exhibited (in Pease and Indian Corn included), he not less than two bushels, and raised by an exhibitor, and the exhibitor shall be otherwise specified and the Cheese and Butter, or other Farm Produce, exhibited, shall be of the best quality, and that all Exhibitors shall have a label to the day of show.

That all competitors for Prizes must give the Secretary notice of the description of stock or Produce they intend to show, before, or on the day but one, previous to the day of any Annual or General show.

That all stock and produce exhibited, must be on the ground previously at 12 o'clock of the day of show; the Judges will at that hour enter on their duties.

That an article or animal can be shown for two prizes in the same year.

That for the encouragement of those members who may introduce Improved stock; if any animal entered for competition be deemed by the judges worthy of the first prize, and if the owner of the same prove to the satisfaction of the Judges that such specimen of stock has been imported from Great Britain, or Ireland, he shall receive double the amount of premium otherwise awarded, but only for one year.

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PURIFY THE BLOOD.

MOFFAT'S VEGETABLE LIFE PILLS

AND PHENIX BITTERS

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DR. WELLS & CO. OF STRATFORD.

210 Broadway, corner of Ashbury street, New York.

For Sale by **BENJ. PARSONS, Sole Agent.**

TWO GOOD FARMS FOR SALE.

ONE within 24 miles, and the other within about 3 miles of Goderich T. C. W. Post. The first is 1/2 T. in 1st Concession Township, and contains 164 Acres, is bounded at the one end by Lake Huron and at the other by a Pub. R. Co., and the second is LOT 8 in 8th Concession, Colborne, W. Division.

CONTAINING 100 ACRES, and is situated at the Junction of two Public Roads.

For Particulars apply to **JNO. McDONALD, Esq.** Goderich, 12th June, 1849. 219-1

NOTICE.

The Subscriber having RENTED THE WAREHOUSE AND WHARF belonging to the Messrs. Davenport, of this place, has established himself as a FORWARDER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.

Any orders or commission from the Merchants of Goderich, will receive prompt attention.

Windsor, March, 1849. 2-27

TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT.

A. NASMYTH

Returning thanks to his friends and numerous Customers for the Liberal Patronage which he has received during the past year, begs to intimate that he has just received an extensive Assortment of **NEW PATENT PATTERNS** 1849, and is ready to Execute all Orders given to him with care and punctuality as heretofore.

Goderich, April 12th, 1849. 2-11011

Upper Canada Rebellion Losses.

Receiver General's Office.

Montreal, 12th March, 1849.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, that Claims for Rebellion Losses in Canada West, who have not applied to, and received payment of their Claims from the respective Agents of the Bank of Montreal, in the several districts as heretofore authorized, will from and after the first day of June next, be necessitated to apply for payment of the same, either personally or by duly appointed Attorneys, to the Parent Bank in this city.

(Signed,) **S. M. VIGER,** H. M. R. G. 2-12

The Huron Signal,

IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY **T. M. MANUEL,** EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE MARKET SQUARE, GODERICH.

* Book and Job Printing, executed with neatness and dispatch.

TERMS OF THE HURON SIGNAL.—TEN SHILLINGS per annum if paid strictly in advance, or Twelve and Six Pence with the expiration of the year.

No paper discontinued until arrears are paid up, unless the publisher thinks it his advantage to do so.

Any individual in the country becoming responsible for six subscribers, shall receive a copy of the Signal.

Letters addressed to the Editor must be post paid, or they will not be taken out of the post office.

OTHER ADVERTISEMENTS.

Six lines and under, first insertion, \$2 50
Each subsequent insertion, \$2 00
Ten lines and under, first insertion, \$3 00
Each subsequent insertion, \$2 00
Over ten lines, first insertion, per line, \$0 4
Each subsequent insertion, \$0 1
A Liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year.

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For Sale by **BENJ. PARSONS, Sole Agent.**

TWO GOOD FARMS FOR SALE.

ONE within 24 miles, and the other within about 3 miles of Goderich T. C. W. Post. The first is 1/2 T. in 1st Concession Township, and contains 164 Acres, is bounded at the one end by Lake Huron and at the other by a Pub. R. Co., and the second is LOT 8 in 8th Concession, Colborne, W. Division.

CONTAINING 100 ACRES, and is situated at the Junction of two Public Roads.

For Particulars apply to **JNO. McDONALD, Esq.** Goderich, 12th June, 1849. 219-1

NOTICE.

The Subscriber having RENTED THE WAREHOUSE AND WHARF belonging to the Messrs. Davenport, of this place, has established himself as a FORWARDER AND COMMISSION MERCHANT.

Any orders or commission from the Merchants of Goderich, will receive prompt attention.

Windsor, March, 1849. 2-27

TAILORING ESTABLISHMENT.

A. NASMYTH

Returning thanks to his friends and numerous Customers for the Liberal Patronage which he has received during the past year, begs to intimate that he has just received an extensive Assortment of **NEW PATENT PATTERNS** 1849, and is ready to Execute all Orders given to him with care and punctuality as heretofore.

Goderich, April 12th, 1849. 2-11011

Upper Canada Rebellion Losses.

Receiver General's Office.

Montreal, 12th March, 1849.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, that Claims for Rebellion Losses in Canada West, who have not applied to, and received payment of their Claims from the respective Agents of the Bank of Montreal, in the several districts as heretofore authorized, will from and after the first day of June next, be necessitated to apply for payment of the same, either personally or by duly appointed Attorneys, to the Parent Bank in this city.

(Signed,) **S. M. VIGER,** H. M. R. G. 2-12

The Huron Signal,

IS PRINTED AND PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY **T. M. MANUEL,** EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE MARKET SQUARE, GODERICH.

* Book and Job Printing, executed with neatness and dispatch.

TERMS OF THE HURON SIGNAL.—TEN SHILLINGS per annum if paid strictly in advance, or Twelve and Six Pence