

THE GLEANER.

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Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignant, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.

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THE GLEANER.

Agricultural Journal.

Brief Hints for November.—As the farmer's work is now generally completed, implements should be cleaned, dried, and laid aside. Every farmer should have a building for his carts, ploughs, harrows, hoes, rakes, &c. There should be a place for every thing, and everything in its place, in order to prevent looking half a day at a time for lost tools. Tools will last much longer if painted, and now is the time to do the work.

Wherever practicable, plough the ground for spring crops. Look ahead for next spring, or you will get in your seed too late.

Employ leisure time in repairing fences, to prevent hurry next spring.

To salt pork properly, it is essential only to imbed the pieces completely in salt. Place a layer of salt on the bottom, then a layer of pork in the usual manner, filling the interstices and so on till the barrel is filled. Use plenty of salt, it will not be lost. Saltpetre, when used, should be in very small quantities, say a 400th part. Some add a small quantity of sugar.

To cure hams, mix a bushel of good salt with a pound of nitre, rub the hams well with the mixture, and put them down. Rub them again in a few days, that they may absorb the salt more evenly. In about four weeks, (sooner if the pieces are small) wash them and hang them up in the smoke house. The following mixture has been recommended as good for hams. One pound salt, one ounce nitre, pulverized and mixed, added to two quarts of molasses; the pieces are to be thoroughly rubbed with this and laid flesh side up, and suffered to remain three weeks.

In the garden, a few vegetables remain to be gathered: cabbages should be taken up on a warm dry day, drained in an inverted position of such water as they contain, and properly protected from water and too great dryness, and from frost. They may be thus protected in various ways. One is to place them in a cellar, with the roots buried in a box of earth. Another is to place them in a row in a dry part of the garden, in an upright position, the roots and stems buried, and then covering them with two broad boards or slabs in the form of a roof, and burying these with earth. Another is to separate the loose leaves, and bury them in a conical pile, precisely as turnips and potatoes are treated. When put in the cellar they should be dry and clean, otherwise in warm weather they will cause unwholesome air.

Asparagus beds, when the tops are dead, should be cleared off, and a layer of dung one or two inches thick spread evenly over.

Seeds of parsnips, carrots, onions, &c., may be sown in autumn to advantage if done so late that they will not vegetate before cold weather. Early pease may be sown to great advantage, if there is no danger from mice. A writer on gardening says: 'To cultivate parsnips, sow the seed in autumn soon after they are ripe, by which means the seed will come up

early the following spring, and let the plants get strong before the weeds will grow to injure them.'

All vacant ground should be ploughed or spaded, to be subjected to the action of winter frosts, and to be in readiness as early as possible in spring.

From the Albany Cultivator.

Cannot.—We very much question whether there is a word in the English language productive of as much mischief as the one placed at the head of this article. Indeed it has no business where it is so frequently found; for it is an intruder on our forms of speech, and deemed unworthy of notice by the lexicographer; yet there are some men who are always using it, and find it always at their tongue's end. The man who admits this word into his vocabulary is regularly done up; henceforth he is good for nothing, because he will perform nothing. We like a man, eye and woman too, who at proper times can utter a plump plain No; for that little word may be their salvation; but if they meet you with a canting cannot, depend upon it, they will—'for a consideration.'

Ask your friend why he runs in debt for things which he has no earthly use; and he will tell you he cannot avoid purchasing things when offered at a bargain, even if he has no present use for them. The time will come, when there will be a cannot of another nature to arrest him; and that will be when his foolish purchases have so exhausted his finances, and reduced his credit, that no one will trust him.

Ask that farmer why he allows that bottle of spirits to be carried into his harvest field; and as the ill-cut and scattered grain attests, to his manifest loss, and he replies that he has been so long in the habit of doing it, that he cannot do without it, when working hard. All nonsense. Thousands, if not millions, have demonstrated the contrary before his face the present year. The truth is, the farmer loves the 'good creature,' and his cannot is the partial opiate he forces upon his conscience to disguise the fact.

Ask that farmer why he allows his fields to be overrun with thistles, johnswort, daisies; his crops choked with stein kroot, chess, and cockle; his corn overtopped by pigweeds; and his garden by chickweed, purslane, &c.; and he answers he cannot attend to them all, he has so much work to do that some must be neglected. Such an answer only makes a bad matter worse. It proves that he is a bad calculator as well as a bad worker. The farmer has no business to plan so much work, as to be unable to perform every part well; and the cannot in the case, can deceive no one.

'Neighbour, the bars to your corn field are very defective, and the gate to your wheat field is so insecure, that I wonder at your leaving them in such a condition, when there are so many unruly cattle running at large.' 'Ah,' he answers, 'I know it well enough. I intended this week to have made some new bars, and had a new gate hung; but have lost so much time in attending that lawsuit, that I cannot do it now.' The next sunny morning, he finds a whole herd of unruly animals in his fields, his crops half

destroyed, and a beautiful foundation for another lawsuit laid.

See that man, once rich and talented, reeling through the street! He is a sacrifice to this cannot. A beautiful wife has wept tears of intreaty; friends have uttered words of remonstrance; reformed inebriates have taken him by the hand, and pointed out the way by which he again may be a man; but to all the reply, a reply fatal to hope, has been, I cannot. It is a lie. He can. He can forsake his cups; he can bring joy and hope to his family; he can again rejoice his friends; but he must first renounce and repudiate this soul and body destroying cannot.

Young man, whatever may be your profession or pursuit, if you would hope for success, never use the word cannot. You may as well attempt to swim with a Scotia grindstone to your neck; and a Paixham shot at your heels, as to expect to accomplish anything worthy of a man while this word is in your vocabulary. When the gallant Miller, at the battle of Niagara, was asked by Scott whether he could carry the enemies batteries: instead of the determined, 'I'll try,' he had whined out—'I cannot,' where would have been his fame, and what the result of that day? Cannot, accomplishes nothing but the ruin of him who uses it.

Farmer, keep shy of cannots. Use not the word yourself, and be careful how you employ those that do. Napoleon never allowed the use of the word, impossible; and in the management of a farm there should be no place for cannot. You can do all that is necessary to be done, if you set about it in the right way, and at the right time. If you do not, your labour will be like that of Sisyphus; ever beginning, never ending. Neglect nothing; keep a watchful eye over everything; see that every part moves in harmony and together, and you will have no cause for cannot.

From the same.

Subsoil Plowing and Draining.—In another part of the Cultivator we have alluded to Mr Smith's excellent lecture on draining and subsoil plowing. The following extracts we think are worthy the notice of those who have hitherto been doubtful on this subject; and some facts which have lately come to our knowledge respecting the use of the subsoil plow in this country, have convinced us that its general introduction would be of essential service to our farmers. In the course of his lecture Mr Smith said:

'A notion has prevailed with some people that it is possible to drain land too much. I do not think so, from the very fact that the mould becomes an excellent magazine for the retention of moisture. A circumstance took place in regard to this in my district in 1826, a very dry season. In that year there was such a long period of dry weather, that the pond was dried up, and there was a great deficiency of crops. I had a field which had been treated in the way I have described, (drained and subsoil plowed,) and I had a crop of hay upon it. On this field which I had deepened to 16

inches, I had a very splendid crop. A proprietor of land in the neighborhood, one of the old school, resisted to the utmost of his conviction with regard to the result of thorough draining and subsoil plowing. A person occasionally employed by me, was also engaged in doing work for him. He had asked about this hay, and the old gentleman was rather puzzled at the state of the crop, and exclaimed that he really thought I had drained my land so much that I should have no crop at all. He was immediately after this completely wedded to the system, and from that day has been vigorously engaged in introducing thorough draining and subsoiling all over his estate; and he is now having a great deal of poor soil, on a very rich and productive estate treated in the same way. Taking the average of that gentleman's estate, I should say that he now produces double the quantity of corn than he used to obtain. He now grows potatoes where he could not grow them before, and on the old clay he produces regular large crops of turnips.'

In the course of the lecture the question was asked by a gentleman—'What effect thorough draining and subsoil plowing would have on the habit of throwing out the wheat plant by frost?' To this Mr. Smith answered, 'There is no difficulty in answering this: because it is well known to be owing to the moisture, that the wheat plant is thrown; and whatever removes the moisture will have the favourable tendency required. I have known many places where almost every winter the greatest part of the plant were thrown out. Now the result of thorough draining and subsoil plowing is, that these places retain the plant perfectly well, and have very abundant crops.'

In a work lately published in England on the 'General Drainage and Distribution of Water,' the author says:—'It is admitted by all who understand the subject, that where drainage has been carried on upon correct principles, and with proper skill and energy, 8 bushels or one quarter of wheat has been added to the produce per acre.' The author further states, that 10,000,000 out of 12,000,000 acres of the arable land of England is undrained or ineffectually drained at present; and he supposes that if this land was perfectly drained more than 3,000,000 quarters of wheat would be annually added to the produce of that grain alone in England. He endeavours to prove also, that the drainage water might be usefully employed in irrigation, and in giving mill power. The sewerage of the towns of England and Wales, he calculates would annually produce over 3,000 tons of disposable manure more than they do at present, capable of enriching an area of 1,000,000 acres. The work referred to, is highly recommended to the attention of land proprietors in the British Isles.

Importance of the quality of Salt used in making Butter.—At a late Agricultural meeting in Augusta, Maine, Dr. Bates stated that the Quakers in Fairfield were in the habit