

THE GLEANER.

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

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THE GLEANER.

Agricultural Journal.

Halifax Colonial Farmer, October 1.

Chickweed.—This is a very troublesome weed among the small seeds in gardens, and among Carrots in the field, but it does good as well as harm; if it does not improve the soil covered with a thick growth of it, it certainly preserves its strength. Pigs feed much upon it, as well as fowls, and when they are confined in summer and fed with this weed, the manure from the pens serves to spread it. It gives but little trouble to crops that grow rapidly like potatoes, beans or cucumbers. If a piece of ground at the beginning of November should be covered with a mat of chickweed, which should be left undisturbed till the first of June following, and then ploughed and planted with potatoes without manure, it would produce as good a crop as a similar piece which should have had the chickweed destroyed by ploughing at the beginning of November, with the usual allowance of manure at planting time. The winter rains do little harm to land thickly covered with herbage, and if this herbage be in a growing state whenever the ground is not frozen, its leaves take from the air, and prevent the dissipation of the volatile part of the decaying substances in the soil. In Virginia many tracts of sandy land have been cultivated for a long time without manure by first sowing oats with a pint to every bushel of oats of the seeds of a kind of Vetch that is natural to the country. The crop ripens in July, and the pods of the vetches opening with a spring, throw their seeds all around so as to seed the whole of the ground, which is covered with the green vines when winter sets in. The next year the ground is planted with Indian corn, then again oats, &c., and under this management, it is said, that land so barren that the first crop is but five bushels to the acre, may have it raised to fifteen, which it will continue to yield without manure, as long as it is cultivated in this manner. Ground that is overrun with weeds of almost any kind except Thistles or Cough grass, will bear a better crop of potatoes if left undisturbed till June, then it will if ploughed early. A crop of green herbage ploughed in, serves to keep the ground loose and light while it is decaying.

From the Boston Cultivator.

On Sowing Oats and Grass Seed.

—When any new doctrine is promulgated, or any new theory advanced, every rational and thinking man will, before he is prepared to believe the first, wish to know what kind of evidence and how much of it can be produced in its support, before he is ready to give credence to it,—and of the latter he will wish to know whether the theory can be used in a practical manner to advantage, that he may not be liable to be deluded by any impostor who sees fit to practice his arts upon him: so the more evidence the writer on agriculture can produce in favor of any particular or favorite operation, or method of im-

provement, the more weight it ought to have on the minds of others. It is true that evidence is little thought of at the present day, by many people who are better satisfied with bold and unauthorised assertions than all the evidence in the world; but we do not belong to that class of 'true believers' of modern date, who prefer the doctrines of those who can create the most wonder while they feel under the least responsibility for what they assert. After three years experimenting, and endeavoring to discover the best way to produce hay on my farm, if I have made no new discoveries, I think I can furnish some evidence to the statements of what others have written before me. My former practice was, after preparing the ground by planting corn the first year on the turf, and the second year potatoes, which I have always found best to succeed corn in rotation, I waited in the spring of the third year till the ground was sufficiently dry to plough, after which I sowed my grass seed and oats, or other spring grain, and harrowed in the usual way. If the season proved a dry one, and my seed sown on dry ground, my grass was about certain to die before the succeeding winter because it had not sufficient time to root; if the season proved favorable, and the seed came up well, the spring grain, and especially oats, would shade and choke it out of existence: so that I was, one way or the other, almost certain of a failure in my expectations of future crops. As some farmers continue to sow oat and grass seed together to the present time, I, for one, would advise them to adopt the course which many are pursuing, of sowing their oats alone, and ploughing in the stubble after harvesting the crop, and sow their grass seed in August, or the March following, and I think they will succeed much more to their satisfaction. We are not generally aware of the loss we sustain in not having our grass seed come up well, or dying after it has come up; owing to this one circumstance, a farmer may fail of an income treble in amount to pay all his taxes. I have seldom had good grass on any kind of land where I have sowed oats and grass seed together. Three years ago, from the necessity of the case, as I thought, I ploughed a piece of ground,—after digging my potatoes in October or November, put on the manure, harrowed and fitted it for seed, which I sowed the next March on a light snow. A part of this ground was light sandy land, and a part very wet and heavy, approaching to meadow or swamp, which would retard sowing seasonably in the spring; the result was, every seed I sowed appeared to come up, lived through the season, and after securing my other hay I had this mowed, which was a fine crop of good fodder, and the ground has continued to do much better since than my fields, sown late in the spring. Since that I have continued the practice of sowing my grass seed in the same manner in March with the same success. I have done sowing oats with my grass, and am compensated with a good crop of hay instead, which I think is full as valuable. The present season I had

herds grass more than a yard high, which sprung from seed sown last March, and was estimated over two tons to the acre. I have repeatedly sown my grass seed, within twenty years past, in August or September, where I have taken off a crop of rye or corn from land well manured, but my expectations were not realized; either the seed did not germinate, or the young grass perished in the winter. I much prefer sowing in March to these autumnal sowings. Clover sown in August, if it comes up, I believe seldom lives over winter. I have a high opinion of clover for horses and cows. A lady in Lowell told me that, on shifting the food of her cow from clover to other good hay, she immediately shrunk nearly one half in her usual quantity of milk: an observation which struck my mind forcibly. The first cow I ever wintered was fed entirely on clover; and in the spring following she produced me the fattest calf and the greatest quantity of milk of any cow I ever owned. The present season, notwithstanding the severity of the drought, some of my most dry and sandy land is now well covered with young and flourishing grass, sprung from the seed sown last March. On the whole, I am decidedly in favor of the March sowing, in preference to the sowing at any other season of the year, on very dry and sandy, or on very wet land, for reasons which I have stated above.

Halifax Colonial Farmer.

For the galled Backs of Horses.—

Apply White lead mixed with milk. Should this fail, and beil begin to swell up near the part which has been chafed, change it for a small quantity of slacked lime sprinkled on the galled spots twice a day, till a crust is formed, and give the horse some Saltpetre. An ounce should be dissolved in half a gallon of water and sprinkled on his hay daily. This is often useful if the horse was very much heated at the time he was galled. When the skin is healed, keep it always blacked with a mixture of tallow and burnt cork till the hair grows. This will often bring hair of the original colour. If cork cannot be procured, use Alder coal.

Couch Grass.—In some parts of Italy great quantities of the roots of this grass, are, in the spring, collected by children, who follow the harrow; washed, and sold in the towns, where it is accounted better than hay. These roots are also used in many parts of Europe medicinally, a decoction of them being supposed to have similar virtues to those of Sassafras, Dandelions, or Sarsaparilla, and to be used in the spring after living upon salt provisions.

As soon as the stems and tops of Potatoes are dead, they should be dug without delay. We sometimes have very severe frost in November. If a small proportion of the Potatoes are frozen in the ground, it will be very difficult to separate them, and sometimes necessary to overhaul them after they are in the cellar.

Grease for Wheels.—Reduce four ounces of Black lead to a very fine

powder, and mix it with a pint of the grease of pork, or goose grease. A very small quantity is sufficient, if secured from the mud and dust.

From the American Agriculturalist.

Remedy for corroding the Flesh by Flies and Maggots in Living Animals.—Another friend, who has a valuable imported ram, on whose neck the flies have made some inroads, will be gratified to learn from the same source, that by mixing a strong decoction of elder bark with an equal quantity of spirits of turpentine, the flies will be kept off, and allow the skin to heal. A salve may be made by adding tar to the above. Paints made of white lead and linseed oil will greatly assist the healing of the wounds in all animals.

Sick Headache.—Two tea-spoons full of finely powdered charcoal, drank in a half tumbler of water, will in less than fifteen minutes give relief to the sick headache, when caused as in most cases it is, by superabundance of acid on the stomach.

From the Cultivator.

Lameness in the Stifle Joint.—I will here give you a receipt for curing a stifle which I consider invaluable. A handful of Sumach bark, and a handful of white oak bark, boiled in a gallon of water down to two quarts; bathe the stifle with this lotion twice a day for three days; then put on a salve made with the white of an egg and rosin, and bathe the same in with a hot shovel two or three times, and the horse is cured.

From Blackwood's Magazine.

Improvers of the Soil.—He is a public benefactor who, by the prudent and skillful outlay of his money in bettering its condition, shall make a field yield permanently a double crop: and he who does this over an square mile, virtually adds a square mile to this national territory—nay, he does more, he doubles to this extent the territorial resources of the country, without giving the state any larger actual area to defend. All hail, then, to the improvers of the soil! health and long life be their fortune—may their hearts be light and their purses heavy—may their dreams be few and pleasant, and their sleep the sweet repose of the weary—may they see the fruits of their own labour, and may their sons reap still heavier harvests.

To Preserve Currants.—Gather currants when green, separate them from the stems, and put them in bottles, which cork closely, and place in a cool part of the cellar. Currants may be kept fresh and green in this manner 10 months or more, and will make excellent pies in the winter and spring.*

* [The bottles of green currants or gooseberries should be buried in earth in the cellar, otherwise some of them are liable to burst.]—Col. Farmer.

Fodder your Cows.—It is bad economy to allow cows to lose flesh in the fall. There is loss every way—loss of milk—loss of value, if you wish to sell—and equal loss, if you winter