

THE GLEANER.

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Nec araneorum 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.

From the Central New York Farmer.

On the application of Manure.—For the fore part of my life I was not a farmer but a mechanic. I quit my trade and commenced farming about twelve years since. After farming the first year I had remaining about my barn a quantity of manure. In the latter part of the season I made some inquiry about using manure upon meadows after mowing, but got very little or no encouragement about using manure in that way. I was resolved to apply the manure to my meadows, having no other place that needed it so much. My farm, the principal part of which was rough and quite new, was unsuitable for mowing, and my meadow ground had been very much injured by ploughing, so much so, that my crop of grain was very light, scarcely worth mowing. In the month of August, before I had done mowing, in rainy or wet weather, I employed my hand in drawing out manure on the meadow, in parts where the grass had been cut, about 20 loads to the acre, and spread all over the ground; in a few days I seen the benefit by the dark green appearance which it presented. The part so manured was very soon excellent feed during the rest of the season, and the next year my grass for mowing was very good, about as stout as it could stand, averaging full two and a half tons of hay to the acre, and remained much the same for about three years, and was passable many years. I have practised ever since putting my manure on the sward ground (in preference to ploughing it under) either spring or fall. The benefit I receive by applying manure in the fall, consists principally in the increased quantity of fall feed.

After this experiment I soon began to see my neighbours drawing their manure on in the same way. For my part, I consider it the best way entirely to use the manure on the sward for pasture or meadow. During my experience which has been twelve or thirteen years, I have never failed of a good crop from manure, drawn on any time after mowing, till the last of April the next spring; and by this mode I get my land enriched by the manure upon the sod, the use of which cannot be lost, as some say it is, by ploughing under deep, about which there is some reason to contend. But to settle that, we will propose when you wish a good crop, plough a piece of ground already enriched by manuring upon the surface, and you will raise any crop that is common for the soil of your land. I would add that the loamy soil of our hill land, is generally adapted to grazing, whatever grade of soil it may be.

I would not wish to be understood that this is the only method of manuring land. Manuring in the hill and manuring before ploughing does good, but not so much in proportion to the quantity of manure. Applying it to the hill you will readily see is a slow and more expensive way with the same benefit, and requires more of the ma-

nure. But ploughing under to the depth of from seven to nine inches, will not answer in this hilly country, for we might as well plant corn on clay from the bottom of the well, as raise a crop from the ploughing of nine inches and then put the manure down to that depth, and you will see at once that the cold soil, so turned up, will not give the crop a start, and your manure is entirely out of reach at the depth of nine inches, or still deeper as some have said. I consider four or five inches deep enough—turn over your enriched sod—plant once and then sow with English grain the second year, and seed immediately, for by ploughing again you destroy the richness of the soil, so that your grass seed will seldom catch. But by sowing the second year after ploughing, the seed will catch, and your land not worn out with ploughing and left good with two good crops—the more you plough grass lands the more you weaken them. I would say that this is my opinion and experience for twelve or thirteen years. If these suggestions will be of any benefit to the public, you are at liberty to publish them.

A SUBSCRIBER.

[The practice of applying manure as top dressing to your grass land as soon as the hay is taken off, has succeeded very well here—it may be continued till the middle of September. After that time it is better to reserve the manure to be spread on the land in the spring, as soon as a slight green colour is to be seen in the fields. It is a fact that loamy land which produced good crops of grass when new, often fails when ploughed. This is caused principally by the neglect of draining, the decaying roots of the trees which were removed having in some measure served for drains; but there is another cause of the failure of the grass; it is injured by the frost. The surface of new land is always covered with decayed vegetable matter. As this does not conduct heat so readily as any kind of earth, it prevents the ground from frequently freezing and thawing in changeable weather in winter; it does not freeze until the frost is severe under this cover, and when once frozen it rarely thaws till spring. But the naked ground freezes with a slight frost, and is thawed two or three inches deep by a rain which has no effect on the turfy ground, throwing out the roots of part of the grass and injuring all. This injury is prevented by top dressing with manure mixed with swamp soil or decayed leaves. Where seaweeds are used for top dressing they should be applied only in the spring.—Editor Halifax Colonial Farmer.]

From the Cultivator.

Top-Dressing Meadows.—I was so much pleased with the results of some experiments made last season, and the season previous, in the top dressing of grass, or rather meadow grounds, that with your permission I will communicate them to the agricultural public. The information will not be new to many of your readers, and although others may remain sceptical, yet to all I will say, try it, should it be on one square rod. Soon after haying in the fall of '35, I had collect-

ed what manure could be scraped up, and carted on to the poorest part of one of our meadows, and spread at the rate of 20 loads to the acre, and adjoining this, in the same meadow, and the same kind of soil, which is a rather thin clay, I had spread thin all the straw we could find in a dry state, and for this piece of folly was laughed at by some of my knowing neighbours, but while mowing this part of the meadow, I invited some of them to witness the result, at which I was myself astonished; we could discover no difference where the manure was applied, and where the straw had been, but in both cases the quantity of grass was nearly double to that on either side where no manure or straw had been used. The experiment was so successful, that I repeated it the past season, spreading all the straw we could muster immediately after haying, and in a few weeks the difference in the growth of the grass where the straw had been spread, and that of the adjoining part of the meadow, was so manifest that no one could doubt the utility of the practice,—in the one case the grass started quick and grew rank and thick, and in the other the growth at the end of two or three weeks was hardly perceptible, and I am told by a Long Island friend, that the crop will be more enhanced at the second mowing after the application than the first. What is the rationale of the thing I pretend not to know; I merely state the facts of the case. And yet, Mr Editor how common it is to see great heaps of straw about the barn or in the fields, left there to rot and become a nuisance, instead of adding, if properly applied, from 50 to 100 per cent to the crop,—and this species of manure is so much more easily and cheaply applied, two loads being sufficient for an acre, whereas 20 to 25 of barnyard manure would be required.

Halifax Col. Farmer, Sept. 16.

Litter.—Cattle that are obliged to lie wet and dirty, generally become sickly and weak. A good stock of litter should be provided if possible. Rushes are plentiful in some places. Dry Eelgrass can be generally procured on the shores of muddy harbours. Most farmers can procure any quantity they wish of the leaves of hardwood trees just after they fall, but if no other litter can be procured, rather use the small branches of green fir, than let the cattle lie in dirt, and become so weak in the back that they can hardly rise, even when in good order. It is much better to prevent this disease by keeping cattle clean, than to attempt to cure it by splitting or cutting off their tails.

Potatoes for seed should when dug be put by themselves, always chusing them from that part of the field (if such should be) where they were not fully ripened, although well grown. Moist ground produces better potatoes for seed; than that which is dry. Moist ground produces very large potatoes—dry ground a greater number, and of a smaller size.

Vegetable Weather Prophets.—The corollas of the German Speedwell are all securely closed at the approach of rain, and they are surely

open again when the storm is over-past. The Pimpernel, also called 'the Poor Man's Weather Glass,' closes its tiny but brilliant flowers many hours before the occurrence of rain; its delicate flowers 'go to sleep,' or close up, soon after twelve, and expand again at seven in the morning. Thus, by this simple monitor, can we ascertain both the hour and also fore-tell the weather. The common and despised Dandelion, a word evidently a corruption of the French translation of the word Dent de Lion, in German Pfaffenkohllein and Dotterblume, is one of the most correct sun-dials or 'dial-flowers,' closing at five in the afternoon, and opening again at seven in the morning. If the Siberian Sow-thistle shut at night, there will generally ensue fine weather on the next day; and if it open, cloudy and rainy. If the African Maigold remain shut after seven P. M. rain may be expected. If the Trefoil contract its leaves, thunder and heavy rain may be expected.

Rust and Mildew on Wheat.—The report of rust and mildew on wheat, say the N. Y. Morning Post, by a committee at the late quarterly meeting of the New Jersey Agricultural Society, ascribes these serious evils to loss of sap through the splitting of the straw, under a hot sun, immediately after a shower or heavy fog. Two crops were carefully examined—one immediately after a sudden drenching shower, and the other after a fog—and in both cases the straw was found bursting under a hot sun with a snapping noise, in short splits of a fourth of an inch long, and the sap exuding in every direction. A day or two after the whole field was completely darkened with rust, (in both cases) and the wheat of very little value.—It does not appear that these evils occur while the wheat is growing, but only at a late and critical period of ripening. In one field there were some trees which sheltered the grain from the intense rays of the sun, and in those spots it was uninjured. The committee concluded that there is no sure practicable means of security.

Straw may always be of great use to the farmer in many ways, and is well worth preserving. The following method of securing it is given by a correspondent of the *Genesee Farmer* in a former volume. "Previous to thrashing I go to a hay stack, and twist a quantity of bands from 6 to 10 feet long, which are placed at the barn door, and when the straw is raked to the door, two men take a band, and stretch it over the bundle of straw, then run each a hand under it, and then turn it over endwise when one of them fastens the band, and the other prepares another band. In that manner two men will bind as fast as the swiftest machine will thrash, and the straw is staked as securely as wheat, and in one fourth of the time required when not bound." When wanted it may be afterwards removed with far less labour than when stacked without binding.

Improvement—Farmers should aim at constantly improving the soil of their farms—they should study the existing defects, and endeavour, as fast as circumstances will permit, to remedy