

THE GLEANER.

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER, AND RESTIGOUCHE

COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. II.

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

No. 9.

Miramichi, Wednesday Morning, December 6, 1843.

Agricultural Journal.

From the Monthly Genesee Farmer.
AGE OF THE HORSE.

Among dealers in horses, the front teeth, which are called *incisors* in other animals, are called *nippers*, as from the motion of the horse in eating, it is evident the grass is rather broken off than cut off by the teeth. These teeth, six in number, are covered with a very hard substance called enamel, the base of which is phosphate of lime, and is so compact as almost to bid defiance to the best files. This enamel constitutes the outside of the tooth, and as it rises above the surface, bent inward and apparently sunk into the body of the tooth, forming an indentation or pit, occupying the centre of the tooth, and the inside and bottom of this, being, during its existence, blackened by the food, constitutes the peculiar appearance or *mark* by which, until the tooth is much worn, the age of the horse can be determined. As the teeth, or nippers, are renewed at different times, the mark will be partially or entirely worn from some, while it will be entire on others; the difference in the wearing, until all are worn, is a criterion not liable to error. The hollow part never fills up, but remains there till the enamel is worn to the same level, when the wear of the whole tooth is nearly uniform.

The horse's mouth is not perfect, that is, all the teeth, nippers, tusks and grinders, have not made their appearance until he is about six years old. The wear is now operative on all, and the *mark* has disappeared from the central nippers. At seven years, the mark is worn out on the four central nippers, and is fast wearing from the outer ones. At eight years, the marks are all gone from the nippers of the under jaw, or the bottom ones; and there is nothing remaining on them which clearly indicates the age of the horse, or "which will justify the most experienced examiner in giving a positive opinion." Dealers, or horsemen, after the animal is eight years old, are accustomed to look at the nippers in the upper jaw, and some aid may be drawn from the appearances they present, as they do not at all times wear away with the regularity or the quickness of the lower nippers. Still the information they give after eight cannot be implicitly relied on; and it is common saying among jockeys, that a horse is never more than nine.

When a horse is sick in winter, he must be covered. Every humane person must rejoice at the leaving off the fashion of cutting off the horse's tail. It is clear that nature produces nothing in vain. The tail may be trimmed; but never forget that a horse, harrassed by flies, has no other means than his tail to brush them off, and that it may prevent accidents in keeping him to stand quiet.

From the Albany Cultivator.
INTERESTING FACTS IN CHEMISTRY.

1. Chemistry is the study of effects in heat and mixture, with the view

of discovering their general and subordinate laws, and of improving the useful arts.—*Black.*

2. Whenever chemical action takes place, a real change is produced in the substance acted upon; and its identity is destroyed. If a carbonate of lime (powdered chalk, be put into a glass of water the chalk will sink to the bottom of the vessel. Though it should be mixed with the water if left at rest it will soon subside; no chemical action has taken place; therefore the water and carbonate of lime both remains unaltered. But if a small quantity of diluted sulphuric acid be added to a glass of chalk and water, a violent effervescence will commence the moment they come in contact with each other: the chemical union of the two substances will be the consequence of this chemical action; the identity of each substance will be destroyed, and sulphate of lime or gypsum (a body different from either of the substances employed) will be produced.

3. Heat has a tendency to separate the particles of all bodies from each other. Hence nothing is more necessary to effect the decomposition of many bodies than to apply heat and collect the substances which are separated by that means.

4. It is evident that water exists in the atmosphere in an abundance, even in the driest season, and under the clearest sky. There are substances which have the power of absorbing moisture from the air at all times, such as the alkalis, potash and soda, and sulphuric acid, the latter of which will soon absorb more than its own weight of water from the air when exposed to it. Fresh burnt lime absorbs it readily; and earth that has been freshly stirred, absorbs it to a greater degree, at night, than that which is crusted and compact. Hence the importance of stirring the soil among tillage crops in time of drought.

5. Bishop Watson found that even when there had been no rain for a considerable time, and the earth was dried by the parching heat of summer, it still gave out a considerable quantity of water. By inverting a large drinking glass on a close mown grass plat, and collecting the vapour which attached to the inside of the glass, he found that an acre of ground dispersed into the air about 1600 gallons of water in the space of 12 hours of a summer's day.

6. Lavoisier has explained solidity thus: "The particles of bodies," says he, "may be considered as subject to the action of two opposite powers—repulsion and attraction, between which they remain in equilibrium. So long as the attractive force remains stronger, the body must continue in the state of *Solidity*; but if on the contrary, heat has so far removed these particles from each other as to place them beyond the sphere of attraction, they lose the cohesion they had before with each other, and the body ceases to be solid."

MANURE.

Allow me to point out the enormous waste of manure, in the shape of muck, resulting from badly constructed farm yards, and by misman-

agement. At first, by way of hint to landowners, there are but few old farm-yards in the western part of this county but are situated and apparently formed, for the purpose of washing away into the brooks and streams this muck. The sites which have been selected for the sheds, commonly called "linhays," are placed on an inclined plane—frequently on a considerable declivity. The consequence is, the valuable property of the muck is either wasted by evaporation, or washed away by heavy rains, and by the accumulation of water from the roofs of the sheds—amounting when the fall of the water is heavy, to a flood. This waste of manure, in too many instances, goes on throughout the winter. What, then, must be the amount of waste and loss? The blood-coloured streams of water, tinged by the mucilaginous and extractive matter—the soluble essence—flowing away throughout a long winter, is the best answer. It is no novelty to see an accumulation of stable dung at the door, or placed near, and under the eaves, smoking with excessive fermentation, and driving off in gaseous form, carbonic acid and ammoniacal matter—the constituent property of good farm yard manure, the residue being merely woody fibre, and scarcely worth taking away. All farm yard dung, and particularly that from high fed cattle, deteriorates from the same cause. It is too much to practise to let the dung accumulate through the winter, till the cattle is about to be turned to grass, and collect the whole into large dunghills. By this practise, on badly constructed farm yards, one half of the quantity and three fourths of the quality, is lost to the farm and to the public. The landowner would do well for his tenant by diverting the water from his farm yards, by shoots being fixed to the eaves of the buildings. The tenant would soon discover his interest by preparing layers of soil, from 1 foot to 18 inches thick, for a base, cast on his dung as soon as made, and seal it down with another layer of soil, &c. Clay or marl should be used for layers, &c., of composts for light and gravelly land, and *vice versa*. Sir Humphrey Davy has informed us, when dung heats beyond 100 degrees of Fahrenheit, deterioration commences. He subjoins a test: "When a piece of paper, moistened in muriatic acid held over the steams arising from a dunghill, gives dense fumes, it is a certain test that the decomposition is going on too far, for this indicates that volatile alkali is disengaged."—Having given my opinion on the economy of farm yard dung, I shall conclude, on the present occasion, by detailing the practice I adopt in further preparing these compost heaps, preparatory to being laid on the land intended for its reception, &c. Early in the spring, and when the temperature rises, these composts should be well turned and mixed: this cannot be too effectually performed. When heat is generated in the compost—which is generally the result in ten days or a fortnight, according to the temperature of the atmosphere—they should be returned, and intimately

ly mixed again; and this process, should not, on any account, be neglected.—The non-deterioration of the manure will not be safe till it is well amalgamated with the soil intended for cropping.

Burns and Scalds.—The pain of a burn or scald on such a part as the finger, may be greatly assuaged by instantly dipping the part in cold water, or applying to it any cold moist substance—mud from the street is as good as any thing. But the sudden dipping of the whole hand or foot into cold water, may prove dangerous to a delicate person, by causing a too quick flow of blood to the head, and therefore should be resorted to with extreme caution. The safest and best application to either a severe burn or scald is soft cotton. In many cases it is wetted on the side next the sore, with a mixture of lime water and linseed oil. A rag wetted with some substance may be used where cotton cannot be had, but cotton is best, and no house should be without a quantity of it.

Removing Putty.—Great difficulty is frequently experienced, when glass is accidentally broken, in removing the old putty to replace the pane. Moisten the putty with nitric or muriatic acid, and it may be removed at once. Where these cannot be had, strong soap laid upon the putty will in a few hours loosen it from the wood so that the new glass can be set without difficulty.

To Kill Lice on Cows, Horses or Hogs.—Take the water in which potatoes have been boiled, and rub it all over the skin. The lice will be dead within two hours, and never will multiply again. I have used ten kinds of the strongest poison to kill lice all with effect, but none so perfect as this.—*New York Farmer.*

Hams cannot be kept with ease or certainty unless the flat bone near the centre of the inner side which joins on the other bones of the ham by a ball and socket, be first carefully removed. Where this has been neglected, although every other care has been taken failures and loss has followed.

The Red Ant.—One of the greatest nuisances to the domestic manager is the small red ant. Any of the ant family are tormenting enough, but this is a plague par excellence. The best way to dispose of common ants is to find their beds and as late in the season as is possible, or during a thaw in winter, open them with a spade, and expose them to the season. This will destroy them. Where the red ant becomes troublesome, it is said that sage leaves fresh picked will keep them away, when scattered in the places it is wished to protect.

Cure for Warts.—Scrape a carrot and salt the scrapings for a poultice, to be bound on the hand immediately before going to bed. By repeating this a few nights the warts will disappear.