

annually to paying off the national debt. This which at the time of the peace amounted to about eighty millions sterling, had been reduced so long as ten years back to a sum scarcely exceeding three and a half years' income; so that Prussia may be pronounced in respect to her national responsibilities, one of the most favourably situated of all the greater European powers. In the anxiety the more surely and rapidly to get rid of the debt, it was resolved by the government in 1820, not under any circumstance, to incur new loans, whilst every available means was to be had recourse to for paying off the old ones. In furtherance of these views, large portions of the public domains have been sold off from time to time, it is said, prematurely and quite below their real value, so that it is now believed that the government would have acted more wisely had it infringed its self-imposed rule, and borrowed equivalent sums at the present reduced rates of interest, and applied them to the process of liquidation of anterior and more costly responsibilities in the laudable manner now attempted by our own able Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Agricultural Journal.

THRIFTY AND UNTHRIFTY FARMING.

I recently made an excursion of some distance in the country, and tarried for a short time in a farming community, where the first eighteen or twenty years of my early days were spent. Many years have elapsed since, and other pursuits have engrossed my time and attention. Yet, often my mind reverts to the scenes of youth, and memory rolls back to the recollection of other days, when, in common with all the rural community in which I resided, I felt all the joys and hope of seed-time, entered with zeal into all the labors and excitement of haymaking and harvest, and shared in all the frolic and glee of husking parties; and in all the thoughtlessness and buoyancy of youth, looked forward for thanksgiving, as the best of all the days in the year.

In visiting the place after an absence of some twenty years, I found many striking changes had taken place: many an honest brawny limbed farmer, then lord of his broad acres, now occupied but his six feet by two, in the "auld kirk yard;" and others that were then in the vigor of manhood, and had been spared, were bowed down with age, and their thick locks had been plucked by the fingers of time, or silvered o'er by the frosts of 70 or 80 winters. Many of my school-mates who were then wild and reckless youths, with whom I had an hundred times tried the "tug of war" at long hold and side hug, were now staid and steady farmers—heads of families, engaged in all the business scenes of life. And of the bright-eyed, flaxen-haired lasses, many were transformed to sober and careful housewives and mothers,—and others were quietly sleeping the slumber that knows no awakening—most of whom had been carried off in all the bloom of youth and early womanhood, by that scourge of New England—consumption.

But as the whole country was covered with snow, I could not make much of an agricultural survey, but upon inquiry, I learned that many farms had from bad management and culture very much deteriorated, and greatly lessened in value; others had held on the even tenor of their way; & wintered about the same number of cattle they did formerly, and some few in the hands of enterprising, intelligent farmers, were advancing with a sure and steady pace that would yearly add to their value, and to the wealth of their owners.

There had been several causes in operation to exhaust the first named class of farms—such as plowing the lands in the autumn, where much of the finer portion of the soil was blown off by the winds, and washed by the rains and melting snows, and suffering their cattle to roam over their mowing fields, both fall and spring with a reckless waste of their manure.

In conversation with one of those farmers, (a Mr. G.) whose farm had run backwards, I suggested to him the idea of collecting the leaves and decaying vegetable matter from a piece of woodland near by. "Why," says he, "I haint much opinion of this vegetable matter—it is sour stuff—only give me dung enough from the hovel windows, and I can raise as good crops as Mr. I. does, with all his swamp muck, lime, compost, and book farming." I enquired if he took an agricultural paper. "No," said he—"I did take one several years ago, and that had so much to tell about a new kind of potato, that they sold for twenty five cents a pound, and after all it warnt no better than the long reds; and about tere corn and mulberry trees; and a good many farmers got bit, by believing their

great stories, that I got sick of, and stopped it, and would not now take the gift of one."

I afterwards called upon Mr. I., the book-farmer, as Mr. G. sneeringly called him, and found him a middle-aged intelligent farmer, who was quietly improving his farm by every means within his reach. I was so much interested in his management, that I thought I would attempt to communicate an account of it to the public, through the columns of your useful journal, with the hope that other farmers might be benefitted by his example.

Upon looking into his barn, I found his hovel floors were water tight, sloping toward the back side. In the rear of the cattle, was a trough, of the width of twelve or fifteen inches; this was also water tight; the droppings from the cattle mostly fell into this, and by giving his cattle a good bedding of litter every night, they were kept comfortable, and nearly as clean as when at pasture.

He had last winter used several loads of sawdust from a shingle mill, and leather shavings from the currier's shop for the purpose of bedding, and soaking, up the urine. The hovels were daily cleared out by wheeling the manure and litter into the centre of the yard, (which is dishing,) and piling it up in a snug heap. His barn is so situated that he cannot dig a cellar under it, but intends the coming season to build a shed for the purpose of keeping his manure under cover in future. The floors of his horse stable are tight; every day it is cleared and the manure and litter is spread under a shed, and by being trodden by his stock it does not heat and fire-fang, as it is too often the case. Most of his winter manure will be mixed with swamp mud to compost through the summer. I inquired respecting a heap near his barn: he said there were two cart loads of lime mortar, that he bought for a trifle of a man who had taken down a large house; it was mixed with about four loads of brake root turf, about eighteen months ago; it had been left this length of time for the purpose of having the plaster come to pieces, and rotting the turf. Last fall it was shoveled over, and two lime casks of fleshings, procured at the tanner's, mixed with it. He thought while this animal matter was decomposing there would be a large amount of nitrogen generated and give him a large amount of nitrate of lime by spring, when it would be again shoveled over, and 35 bushels of good ashes mixed, and then applied to an acre and a half of ground, upon which he should sow wheat: I think he said the compost was to be put on after the ground was plowed, and to be harrowed in with the wheat. The ashes he had purchased at ten cents per bushel.

He had a cartload of the waste wool, or flying, from the wool carder's: this was to be boiled for a short time in lye, to cleanse the oil and grease, and to render the wool more decomposable. By way of experiment, a part of it would be used to manure some of his corn and potatoes in the hill, the rest would be mixed in the compost heap, to remain a year or so. He also had a large quantity of old wollen rags, that he bought of a store-keeper for a trifle—having, he said, read in some book that 100lbs. of wollen rags contained as much nitrogen as 2000 lbs. of cow manure. Some of these rags were to be chopped up and steeped in urine for a few days, then to be partially dried and sprinkled with gypsum, and used as manure in the corn and potatoe hills; the other part would, like the waste wool, be composted. He had a number of casks of fleshings, that were obtained at the tanner's, which would be mixed with vegetable mould as soon as the snow was off, and he could obtain it; he also has the hair, lime, and pits of horns from the tan-yard; the bones are broken up by the hammer, and mixed with manure and plowed in; they will slowly decompose, and supply phosphate of lime to his land; he had about two barrels of the settlings of salts from the pearlsh factory—similar, he thought, to the material known as glass factory manure; an account of its use and value is given in Mr. Colman's Fourth Report, pages 344-5, by a Mr. Jarvis. There were a few inches of lye upon the top of the salts in the barrels, so strong as to float an egg with nearly one half its surface above the lye. This, he assured me according to Mr. Jarvis's statement, would convert 10 or 15 loads of loam or muck into a compost equal to the same amount of good stable manure. All these materials, sawdust, wool, fleshings, hair, lime, pits of horns, and salts from the potash, he had for removing, as they were considered a nuisance, and of no value by the manufacturers or owners. The droppings of the fowls are occasionally scraped from the boards

over which the hens roosted, and put in old casks; in the spring it will be moistened with urine and ground to pieces with a hoe, and mixed with plaster of Paris, to be applied to grass land, or second hoeing;—he styles it "Yankee guano." He has a strong tight box under his back house, in which is frequently thrown gypsum, or charcoal dust obtained from the coal pen of the village blacksmith: it absorbs the smell, and once in a week or two, the contents of the box are mixed with dry earth or sawdust, or some other material, to absorb the liquid part, and put into old tight barrels. This is home-manufactured *poudrette*. His hog-yard, of good size, has been dug to the depth of 18 inches, and a good plank floor over the whole, which makes it easy shovelling out the manure. The suds from the wash are conveyed to it by a spout, which with the manure of his hogs, mixed with the loam, muck, and other materials, makes many loads of valuable manure. He has tried many experiments that he has seen recommended in the agricultural books and papers that he has read; says, after he became one and twenty, he did not feel obliged in all things to follow in the footsteps of his worthy predecessor, his father, and sometimes pursued a new track, and went upon his own hook. He intends getting a small quantity of guano and ground bones the coming spring, for the purpose of testing them by the side of other manures. Several of the kinds he has not yet tilled, but from his remarks, I feel satisfied he will find them all invaluable helps for increasing his crops, and from the nature of some of them, valuable and permanent improvers of his soils.—Correspondent of the New England Farmer.

IMPORTANCE OF CHARCOAL.

A fortnight ago we called attention to the increasing evidence as to the value of charcoal, as an agent of cultivation, and we alluded to the employment of it in the Pine-growing at Bicton. We have since received a letter from Mr. Barnes, in which he entirely confirms the statement we then made. "Charcoal," he says, "is the most astonishing article to make use of for all purposes of cultivation, and plants under artificial treatment. I judge from many years' experience in its use. What you say respecting my employing it largely among my Pine-soil is true. It consists of nothing but charcoal and loam without a particle of manure of any sort. Every plant under my care has some charcoal used about it. I never yet saw the plant that did not delight in it, and to Heaths it is most especially acceptable." It seems to us that opinions thus strongly expressed by one of the best Gardeners in the country, must carry conviction to the most sceptical. However we may as well mention a few other facts before we leave the question to the experimental proof to which it is now certain to be subjected all over the country.

The other day Mr. Stewart, Gardener at Stradsett Hall, exhibited to the Horticultural Society, some Cucumbers grown in equal parts of loam and charcoal without any manure. No stimulant could have given better fruit so far as health was concerned.

The author of the "Rural Economy of the Midland Counties" states that the fragments of charcoal left by the charcoal-burners have been found of great benefit to land. He reports them to be, in his time in esteem as a manure for Turnips, and for finding grass-land.

The well known operation of paring and burning has been supposed to prove so beneficial in consequence of its removing in sects and destroying the cohesiveness of stiff clays. The latter is, no doubt, its effect in part; but we entertain no doubt that the charcoal formed from roots of grass and other plants is also of much importance in the operation. Try for example, brick-dust—which is burnt clay without charcoal—and the burnt clods of the fields, containing charcoal, against each other, and the distinction will soon be seen; yet, so far as mechanical alteration of the texture of the soil is of value, they are not in a very different state.

Then listen to what is stated by Mr. Rivers, in the last edition of his "Rose Amateurs Guide." "I have used," he says, "with much success (for Roses in pots) turf roasted on a sheet of iron placed in a temporary brickwork, under which a moderate fire has been kept; about one hour's roasting is sufficient. This chars the under side, and acts most beneficially" up. 262). We have reason to know that this is a most important fact in the management of Roses in pots; and let the reader only consider how entirely it confirms all that we have said on the subject.

When we last mentioned this matter we quoted the experiments of Mr. Rigg, against the assertions of other chemists, to prove that charcoal will form carbonic acid with the oxygen of the atmosphere, under ordinary circumstances. We have since met with a passage in De Candolle's "Physiology," which shows that we do not stand alone in our belief that charcoal does, even in the air, form gaseous combinations of some sort or other, and so furnishes food to plants, independently of the matters it may be able to condense within its pores. "Count Rumford," says M. De Candolle "has proved by direct experiment that charcoal, so long regarded as one of the most fixed of known substances, is capable of combining with oxygen, and forming with it carbonic acid, at a temperature very far below that of which it burns perceptibly. This slow combination of charcoal with oxygen explains why those places in the woods where the charcoal burners have been at work, although at first sterile, become fertile, in proportion as the charcoal combines with the oxygen of the atmosphere to form carbonic acid, which dissolves in the surrounding water."

We may add that the quality of charcoal is much improved by steeping it in liquid manure; and that the lighter and more spongy it is, the better for the purposes of the cultivator.—Gardeners' Chronicle.

The Politician.

THE COLONIAL PRESS.

From the Halifax Times.

STEAM COMMUNICATION.—There has been much talk during the week of an intention on the part of the British Government to run the Royal Mail Steamships direct to Boston, instead of via Halifax. We can find no sufficient grounds for the rumour, but it has been considered of so much importance, that a petition to the Government has been got up, numerously signed, and transmitted through the proper channel, deprecating any alteration in the route, as prejudicial not only to the speedy and safe conveyance of the Mails, but injurious to Provincial interests. To make a foreign port a depot for the reception of the British Mails for all the British North American Provinces, appears to us to carry with it such an air of absurdity, that upon this ground alone we are inclined to believe there is no truth in the report. There is no doubt that by present arrangements the mails arrive at every province as quick as they would were the Steamers to run direct to Boston or New York—and we feel persuaded that it will be better to bear with a trifling inconvenience, if any such happens at times, and which will disappear as the system becomes more complete, than to depend upon the capriciousness of the United States, and the good faith of its mercurial populations for the latest information and advices upon affairs political or mercantile. All the lower Provinces, including Newfoundland, would be injured by the change, and the benefit to the Canadas, the only valid excuse that can be imagined, short of a desire to pander to the interests of the United States at the expense of those of the Colonies, would be problematical indeed. A little sympathy on the frontier would soon prove to the Canadians the folly of jeopardizing their English intelligence—and we would not give much for the integrity of official papers in the event of any serious question pending between the two governments, all of which would be *Grahamized* ere arrived at the boundary line. In short, the evils that would attend the change present and prospective are so great, that the rumour goes for nought in our estimation, and we class it amongst those desirable accomplishments, which so far as neighbour Jonathan is concerned, he would like to attain to, but which it is easier to talk about than to execute.

Since writing the above we learn that a proposition has been made to the American Government and acceded to by Congress, to allow the Canadian mails to traverse the American territory to their destination, without having to go through the American post office. This arrangement though it would supersede the employment of a steamer between Pictou and Quebec, and probably prevent the improvement of the land communication between the Provinces, does not involve an alteration in the communication with the Mother Country. The injury would be felt in a lesser degree. The route to Quebec by Pictou is said to be expensive and inconvenient. The expense may be greater than by the land

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