

# THE GLEANER:

AND NORTHUMBERLAND, KENT, GLOUCESTER AND RESTIGOUCHE  
COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

OLD SERIES]

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

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.]

MIRAMICHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1849.

[NUMBER 50.]

## Agricultural Journal.

From the New England Farmer.  
SAVING MANURE.

In the busy season of summer, the farmer will, generally, have but little time for making manure, by collecting and preparing various materials; but he should diligently attend to saving all manures produced by his animals, as, without care, there is a great loss, at this season, by the hot sun, drying winds, and occasional drenching rains.

Allow animal manures to lie only a few months, exposed to these wasting influences, and more than half of their virtues will be dissipated. A little labor will save manure from waste, and pay fourfold the expense. Place the manure under shelter, or, if this cannot be done conveniently at this busy season, place it in the shade, as the rains of summer will not generally penetrate far into a heap. And to save the liquid part, so as to prevent heating, mix loam, sand, or mud intimately with the manure. By adding mud, peat, muck, or clay with manure for dry lands, and sand, gravel or light loam with that for clayey or wet lands, the texture of the soil will be permanently improved by the application.

When we consider that the farmers of New England are proverbial for their economy, we can hardly account for their allowing of so great a waste in manure. They would cautiously guard against the waste of a crop, even to the amount of a single dollar, or a dime, and yet they allow their manures to be wasted to the amount of many dollars annually. If a hen, squirrel, bird, or any other small animal, is known to be feasting daily on the labors of the farmer, it is carefully guarded against, or the crop secured, to prevent the petty depredation.

But old Sol may pour his scorching rays upon the manure heap, the parching winds may carry off its fine gases, and the rains may pour in floods upon it, and carry off in solution its most valuable product; and all this is unheeded by thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands, of provident farmers—provident they intend to be, and so they are generally, but on this subject they have not reflected.

When cultivators have given this subject a thorough investigation, they will no more allow a waste of the materials that produce crops, than allow animals to devour crops without permission. We hope that every man who tills the soil will give this subject a candid examination, and act upon the light which must beam upon the reflecting mind; and the consequence will be a saving of manure to the amount of millions of dollars annually.

From the same.

### HAY CAPS.

Caps for the protection of hay are very convenient and economical, especially in changeable weather. Sometimes caps may be used several times in one season and make sufficient saving to pay the whole expense in a single year. In some cases the amount saved in one storm has been sufficient to pay the whole expense. Caps will cost about thirty-three or forty cents apiece. By the use of one, a hundred of hay would sometimes be saved in excellent condition, which would be nearly worthless without such protection, making a saving of forty or fifty cents, and in some years of scarcity of hay, the saving would be, in a single instance, sixty or seventy cents to each cap, at once using. Besides saving hay from damage, there is a great saving of labor, as it requires much time to open and dry hay that has been wet in the heap; and the whole business of haying is expedited by the use of caps, and the hay is secured in better season, making a great saving in the quality of the hay that is procured, which is often much injured by long standing. We hope that farmers will try this mode of securing hay, at least in a small way, that they may judge from experience.

Old canvas or sails are sometime used

for caps. Drilling, or close stout sheeting, is a convenient and excellent article for caps. Purchase that which is one yard and three or four inches wide, and make the caps of two pieces sowed together, about two and one fourth yards long, making the caps a little more than two yards each way. Two yards square will answer, but a quarter and a half in addition is better.

Turn up the corners one or two inches, and sew them; into these loops put a line or cord, with a loop about two inches long, and fasten down the corners with small sticks, about twenty inches long, run upwards into the bay. Put up the bay in cocks, as usual, when a storm is expected, having it pretty well elevated in the centre, that the cap may throw off the water, which it will shed like an umbrella.

Farmers who have never used hay caps and have doubts as to their utility and economy, would better have them made the size of sheets; and a little careful usage will not injure them, and the storms will whiten them, and when haying is over, the good housewife will find a use for them.

### HARVEST HYMN FOR 1849.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY."

Again through every country,

Of Britain's happy shores

The Great Creator's bounty

Unstinted plenty pours;

Again, to Him returning

In thankfulness we raise,

Our hearts within us burning,

The sacrifice of praise.

O great as is Thy glory,

Thy goodness does excel!

What harp can hymn the story?

What tongue the tale can tell?

The boundless breadth of Nature

Is spread beneath Thy throne,

And every living creature

Is fed by thee alone!

Rejoice! for overflowing

Is each abundant field;

The Lord has blest the sowing,

The Lord has blest the yield;

The mower has mown double,

The reaper doubly reap'd,

And from the shining stubble

Her head the gleaner heap'd

Rejoice! for mercy blesses,

And judgment smites no more;

The God of grace possesses

Araunah's threshing-floor:

The gains of honest labor

Are showered from above,

And neighbor looks on neighbor,

In happiness and love.

O men of all conditions,

The high or humbly born,—

Away with low seditions!

Away with lofty scorn!

Mix kindly with each other,—

For God has given to all

The common name of brother,

And gladdens great and small.

And Erin! thou that starvest

So patient on thy sod,—

To thee, to thee this harvest

Is come, the gift of God!

Cheer up, though woes oppress thee;

Be diligent and true;

And with thy Queen to bless thee,

HER KING SHALL BLESS THEE TOO!

From the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.

### HINTS ON HARVESTING WHEAT.

As the time for harvesting wheat is fast approaching, I submit the following suggestions, through your paper, to the wheat-growers of this country. I am one of those who believe it best to cut wheat just so soon as it will do—that it is, when it is "in the dough," as we term it. Having two neighbors, some five years ago, both thriving farmers, one contended for cutting wheat when in the dough state, while other as firmly contended that it should stand at least a week longer, until it was thoroughly ripe. At

that time, I thought them both on extremes; but in the harvest of 1845, I determined to test the matter by a fair trial. Accordingly, in a field containing ten acres, I cut and shocked six acres in one day when in the dough, letting the other four acres stand one week longer before I cut it. The result was, the first cut stood up well in the shock, the straw being stiff and the heads straight. In the second case nearly all the shocks fell down, (there happened a storm of wind and rain before it would do to thresh,) in consequence of the straw being broken and limber, and the heads being curled. The last cut was more damaged by the rain than the first. I then threshed it out of the shock, keeping it separate; and on comparing the two, the first cut showed a plump, clear-looking grain—the last, a grain somewhat shrunk, and of a darker brown color. When made into flour, the former was almost as white as snow.—The first cut did not shatter out and waste in handling, like the latter. The straw of the first was bright, and equal to hay to feed cattle on in winter, while the latter was comparatively worthless. By what natural process the sap ascends the stalk after it is cut, so as to prevent the grain from shriveling, I leave for the scientific to determine. It is a well known fact among farmers, that Indian corn cut and shocked up after the blades are entirely dry, will turn bright and be good feed for cattle—from the substance remaining in the stalk, I suppose.

C. S.

HARTSVILLE, 1849.

From an English Paper.

### POTATOES.

Though this is not the time of the year to put it in practice, yet it is the time to see the evil effects of other plans, and therefore I mention it now. I believe I got the idea from some one of your correspondents, some years since. When you get up the potatoes in autumn, instead of putting them in hogs, or pies, as they are called, mark out in a level place ground three feet wide, level it about two or three inches above the surface, spread your potatoes upon it one layer thick, then put two inches of soil, then a layer of potatoes, then soil, and so on, gradually coming up to a ridge. At first a very slight quantity of soil will do; but before winter sets in, they require a covering of six inches, and some fern or litter over all in frost. This plan seems tedious, but is in reality done as quickly as hogging, or very nearly so. It keeps potatoes excellent to eat, preserves them from rot better than any plan, and for seed nothing can beat it. I have been planting the last fortnight, and the seed taken out of these earth hogs is just as it was when taken out of the ground in autumn, the eyes just showing, and the skin fresh, healthy, and bright. My gardener had a great prejudice against this plan at first, but now, after three years' practice, says there is nothing like it. I believe it does much to invigorate the potato plant, as there is no vital force lost in pushing sprouts. I am aware that gardeners often keep their early kidney-seed in out-houses, &c., upon this plan but this cannot be done with a large quantity for field culture, added to which, I find the potatoes keep much better, both for eating and seed, than when spread in a cellar, on a granary floor, or packed in barrels.

From the American Agriculturist.

### NEW MODE OF PREPARING BONES FOR MANURE.

There are several methods of preparing bones for application to land as manure. One is by calcination, or burning, by which all the organic matter is burned or driven off. This fits the mineral portion of the bones for immediate and efficient action in the soil, in consequence of reducing the bones to a minute state of division, and expelling the oil and gelatine, which for a time prevents decay. By this process, however, the animal matter is lost as manure. This amounts to thir-

ty-five to fifty per cent. of the fresh bone according to the age of the animals supplying them, the youngest always giving the largest proportion of cartilage, oil, and gelatine.

Another method is by placing the bones in a compact heap or hogshead, first crushing them, and pouring over them, from one third to one half their weight of sulphuric acid, diluted with water. This generally effects a speedy decomposition of the bones, and augments the efficiency and intensity of their action, as the sulphuric acid is itself a powerful manure for certain soils and crops.

A less expensive mode, sometimes adopted, is, to place the bones together in a heap, and moisten them with ashes and water, covering closely with muck, manure, or common garden mould. If this be done in a warm room, or in the open air in summer, or in the centre of a bed of horse or other fermenting manure, they will soon dissolve, and be in a fit state for application to the crops, after mixing with mould, so as to absorb their moisture.

Grinding or crushing is the usual method of preparing bones for the soil. They are thus rendered comparatively fine, and are easily decomposed when incorporated in the ground. They are conveniently transported in barrels or sacks, and applied with little trouble either to the muck heap, or sown broadcast or in drills. In this condition, they also preserve the animal matters, (the oil and gelatine,) which are slowly given out by decomposition, and materially contribute to the growth of the crops.

A trial has recently been made, which gives us another, and in many respects, a method superior to all others. It consists in subjecting them to steam of a high pressure for a few hours, when the oil and gelatine are entirely separated, and the largest bones, skulls, hocks, vertebrae, &c., are easily crushed between the thumb and finger, though retaining their full proportions and form. The fat may be thus drawn off and used for soap grease, for cart or wagon wheels, or for certain kinds of machinery, while the remainder of the extracted matter is useful for manure.

A small boiler for generating steam, with a larger one to hold the bones, and a connecting tube, each capable of sustaining a pressure of twenty-five pounds to the inch, are all that are required for this purpose; or should a steam boiler be already in use about the premises, this would supply the place of a steam generator. Where wood ashes are procurable at fair rates, they are economically used with fresh bones, first by leaching and boiling the bones in the lye. If this process is thoroughly carried out, the oil is converted into soap, and the bones are prepared for ready decomposition in the soil. The spent lye yielded by the soap, and the leached ashes and lime remaining, may also be added to the soil, with the utmost advantage.

From the Genesee Farmer.

### ASHES AS MANURE FOR GRASS LANDS.

There is scarcely any part of the country where leached ashes cannot be obtained in greater or less quantity; and in the vicinity of asheries, abundance may generally be had. If the following remarks by Count Chaplet are applicable to soils, of whatever materials they may be composed, a knowledge of this property of leached ashes would, in many instances, be of very great value. At all events, the experiment is easily performed on a moderate scale.

"The ashes produced by the combustion of wood in our common domestic fires, give rise to some very remarkable results. Without being leached, these ashes are much too active; but after having been deprived by the action of the water, or nearly all their salts, and employed in this state, under the name of *duck-ashes*, they still produce great effect.

"The action of the duck-ashes is most powerful upon moist lands and meadows, in which they not only facilitate the growth of useful plants, but if employed