

# THE GLEANER:

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OLD SERIES]

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Journal of the New Brunswick Society, for the Encouragement of Agriculture Home Manufactures and Commerce, throughout the Province.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MANURES.

For dry and light soils less time will be required than on wet and heavy land, but from five to ten bushels of quick lime per acre added annually to the arable land of this country will be found to be of great permanent advantage, and if it is wished to apply it only once in the rotation it must still be done at the above rate.

Lime may be applied in the form of compost as has been before explained, and if it is thought advisable to apply it as top dressing to meadow land, it is good practice to haul and spread it on the meadow in the fall when the snow is two or three inches deep.

There are some other substances rich in lime and which act upon the same principle, which to many farmers may prove accessible where lime is not; these are

1st. Shells, which when burnt are as good as lime.

2nd. Sea sand, Shell sand and Mud, which form an excellent top dressing.

3rd. Mussel mud, which is good either to be ploughed in while moist or when composted with manure, &c. These generally contain animal as well as mineral matter.

4th. Marl, which is a mixture of mild, powdery lime and clay, with more or less vegetable or animal matter, and is found commonly enough along the sea board of this Province; sometime the lime has been derived from broken shells, at others, from the wash of rocks which contained lime; the proportion of lime to clay varies very much from one place to another, but the presence of the latter renders it always well fitted to improve both sandy and peaty soils. It is generally best to lay out the marl in heaps in the field and to let it lie over a season, after which it may be spread on grass, stubble or fallow land with great advantage.

Plaster contains about one-third of its weight of lime, but not in the same combination as in limestone. When burnt it consists of 42 per cent of lime, and 58 per cent of Sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol, which latter also enter into the composition of crops. When the farmer can afford it he ought never to be without a supply of Plaster.

It serves directly to nourish crops, (it occurs in their ashes) and to fix useful matters from the air, the dung and soil. Like lime also it accelerates the conversion of moist vegetable matter, and when the latter has been small in quantity, may occasionally seem to cause a sort of exhaustion of the land. At the rate of one or two bushels per acre, it would be a valuable application to the dry soils of the interior, and would tell especially on young wheat seeded down for clover, &c.

It may always be advantageously used to fix or absorb the volatile gases of manure heaps and if sprinkled on the floor of the stables occasionally, would not only purify the air, but economise much of the liquid manure.

It is most earnestly desired by this Committee, that the attention of farmers should now at once be directed to the intelligent economy and increase of manures; this must lie at the bottom of all improvement in our systems of husbandry: he who goes on in the old slovenly way, wasting the food of his crops, and grubbing because the land will not yield him a profitable return had better sell his farm and vanish into the States. As soon as the crop is in the ground in the Spring, the farmer should begin collecting materials for a compost heap for the next year's use, and he should set about it with as much zeal as if his future crop—and subsistence depended upon it alone.

By all competent observers, the character of the Farmer as an intelligent and successful cultivator of the soil will ever be readily inferred from the appearance of his barn yard and manure heap.

All of which is respectfully submitted by  
J. ROBE, M. D., Chairman.  
H. J. HANSAED.  
WM. WATTS.

Fredericton, March, 1850.

From the New York Knickerbocker.

### THE OLD FARMER'S ELEGY.

On a green mossy knoll, by the banks of the brook  
That so long and so often has watered his flock,

The old farmer rests in his long and last sleep,

While the waters a low, lapping lullaby keep;  
He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall wake him to labor again.

The blue bird sings sweet on the gay maple bough,  
Its warbling oft cheered him while holding the plough,

And the robins above him hop light on the mould,

For he fed them with crumbs when the season was cold;

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall wake him to slumber again.

Yon tree that with fragrance is filling the air,  
So rich with the blossoms, so thrifty and fair,

By his own hand was planted, and well did he say,

It would live when its planter had mouldered away;

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall wake him to labor again.

There's the well that he dug, with its water so cold,

With its wet dripping bucket so mossy and old,

No more from its depths by the patriarch drawn,

For the "pitcher is broken"—the old man is gone!

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall awake him to labor again.

And the seat where he sat by his own cottage door,

In the still summer eves, when his labors were o'er,

With his eye on the moon, and his pipe in his hand,

Dispensing his truths like a sage of the land;

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall awake him to labor again.

'Twas a gloom giving day when the old farmer died:

The stout-hearted mourned, the affectionate cried;

And the prayers of the just for his rest did ascend,

For they all lost a brother, a man, and a friend;

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall awake him to labor again.

For upright and honest the old farmer was;

His God he revered, he respected the laws;

Though fameless he lived, he has gone where his worth

Will outshine, like pure gold, all the dross of this earth;

He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain;

No morn shall awake him to labor again.

### EDUCATION OF FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.

In the families of many farmers, there are too many unproductive hands. In the changes which, since the introduction of extensive manufactories of cotton and woollen among us, have taken place in our habits of domestic labor, some of the internal resources of the farmer have been dried up, and new occasions of expenditure introduced. I cannot better illustrate this matter than by a recurrence to a conversation which I had with one of the most respectable farmers in this country. "Sir," said he to me, "I am a widower, and have only one daughter left. I

have gone to the utmost extent of my limited means for her education. She is a good scholar and has everywhere, stood high in her classes, and acquitted herself to the satisfaction of her instructors. She is expert in all the common branches of education. She reads Latin and French; she understands mineralogy and botany; and I can show you with pleasure some of her fine needlework, embroidery and drawing. In the loss of her mother, she is my whole dependance; but, instead of waiting upon me, I am obliged to hire a servant to wait upon her. I want her to take charge of my dairy, but she cannot think of milking; and as her mother was anxious that her child should be saved from all hardship—for she used to say, the poor girl would have enough of that by and by—she never allowed her to share in her labor; and therefore she knows no more of the care of the dairy, or indeed, of housekeeping, than any city milliner; so that, in fact, I have sold all my cows but one. This cow supplies us with what milk we want, but I buy my butter and cheese. I told her a few days since that my stockings were worn out, and that I had a good deal of wool in the chamber, which I wished she would card and spin.—Her reply was, in tone of unaffected surprise, 'Why, father! no young lady does that; and besides, it is so much to send it to the mill and get it carded there.' Well, I continued, you will knit the stockings if I get the wool spun? 'Why, no father! mother never taught me how to knit, because she said it would interfere with my lessons; and then, if I knew how, it would take a great deal of time and be much cheaper to buy the stockings at the store.' This incident illustrates perfectly the condition of many a farmer's family, and exhibits a serious drawback upon his property, and a great impediment to his success. The false notions which prevail among us in regard to labor, create a distaste for it; and the fact if the time required to be employed in many articles of household manufacture be reckoned at its ordinary value, the cost of making many articles of clothing would exceed that for which they could be purchased at the store, is deemed a sufficient reason for abandoning it at home. In many cases however, the time is turned to no account, but absolutely squandered. But the clothing, if not made, must be bought; and they who might produce it must be sustained at an equal expense, whether they work or are idle.

### RULES FOR PLOUGHING.

We think it would be proper for Agricultural Societies to establish some general standard for good ploughing. We find but a small proportion of all the ploughing in the country, performed in what could be called a proper manner. One of the greatest and most common errors, is making too wide furrows. This error is more or less prejudicial according to the nature of the soil—the injury being greater as the soil is more compact and tenacious. If the land to be ploughed is sward, the object is the subversion of the sod in such a manner as that the decomposition of the vegetable matter shall be rendered most valuable and availing to succeeding crops, and at the same time leave the soil loose and permeable to the roots of growing plants. To consider in detail all the circumstances which promote decomposition, would require more space than we have at disposal; it may however be remarked that air, heat, and moisture are essential requisites. But in the case under consideration, it is unnecessary in the first place, that the vegetable substances in the soil be placed in a situation as to check life else their growth will be promoted by the very principles which would otherwise produce decomposition. A complete subversion of the sod is therefore the first requisite, and this should be done in a manner most favorable to its decomposition, and the benefit of the crop to be sown on the land.

It is obvious that a narrow furrow, lightly laid over, would, more perfectly than a wide one, divide the soil and adapt it to the support of a crop. It is not many months, however, since we heard a farmer remark that he would not care if six or seven inches of a field he intended to plough, could all be completely turned over at once.

Few would probably attempt to defend this proposition, and yet the practice of many is so much in accordance with it, they not only turn over at once as much as they possibly can, but in some cases they attempt to cover with the furrow slice that which is not even loosened by the plough.

On the relative advantages of flat and angular furrows, we are aware that much diversity of opinion prevails. For very loose porous soils, flat furrows may be equally as good, if not better, than those laid at any angle; but excepting for such, we should decidedly prefer furrows laid in such a manner as would admit a space for air underneath.

As the proper depth of ploughing, good farmers also differ. Since the introduction of the subsoil-plough, however, we think the question more easily settled, as the loosening of the sub-stratum by that implement, at once secures all the advantages of deep tillage, while it allows a surface furrow so shallow as to be liable to none of the objections urged against deep ploughing.—*Albany Cultivator.*

### RECIPES.

**To Scour Boards.**—Mix together one part lime, three parts common sand, and two parts soft soap; lay a little of this on the scrubbing brush. Afterwards rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean coarse cloth. This will keep the boards a good colour. It is also useful in keeping away vermin. For that object, early in the spring, beds should be taken down and furniture in general removed and examined; bed-hangings and window-curtains, if not washed should be shaken and brushed; and the joints of bedsteads, the backs of drawers, and indeed, every part of furniture except polished mahogany should be carefully cleaned with the above mixture, or with equal parts of lime and soft soap without any sand. In old houses, where there are holes in the boards which often abound with vermin, after scrubbing in as far as the brush can reach, a thick plaster of the above should be spread over the holes and covered with paper. When these things are timely attended to, and combined with general cleanliness, vermin may generally be kept away even in crowded cities.

**Eggs in Cakes.**—In making cakes, whatever eggs are to be used, should be added after all the other ingredients are thoroughly mixed. By observing this rule, two eggs will be found to go as far in enriching the cake and making it light, as three would do if added at an earlier stage of the preparation.

**Medicine for Hogs.**—The American Farmer furnishes the following:—When your hogs get sick, you know not of what, give them ears of corn, first dipped in tar and then rolled in sulphur. It is ten to one that it arrests the disease and restores the patient to perfect health.

**Pease Soup, without Meat.**—Take a pint of whole pease, and let them soak all night: next day put them into three quarts of boiling water, and let them boil till tender; then wash them together so as to form a paste, and put them back into the water along with a quantity of turnips and carrots, all cut into dice with some sliced onions. Let the soup simmer gently for two hours, then thicken with oatmeal, and season with pepper and salt.

**Rice Pudding.**—Tie one lb. of rice in a pudding bag, so loose as to be capable of holding five lbs. Let it boil gently till it swells enough quite to fill the bag. Turn it out, and pour 2 oz. of treacle over it.