

HEAD QUARTERS, Douglas, September 1, 1842.

*Extract from the Regimental Orders 3d Battalion York Light Infantry.*

No. 6. The Commanding Officer is much gratified that so many of the Captains of his Battalion have discontinued treating their men on the days of training, and he hopes that all the Captains will follow the same good example.

JOHN ROBINSON, Lt. Col.

### COLONIES AT HOME;

Or, means for rendering the industrious Labourer independent of Parish Relief, and for providing for the poor Population of Ireland by the Cultivation of the Soil.

[Continued from last Supplement.]

#### PARSNIPS.

The leaves and roots of the Parsnip are excellent, with a little hay, for milch cows in winter. The roots are also good for fattening cattle and poultry. Its culture is the same as that of the carrot.—The large Jersey is the best sort, and the seeds should be procured from that island; old seed will not do. It may be sown in drills over dung from 15 to 18 inches apart, about the middle of the second month (February); the quantity from 4lb. to 5lb. per acre, or half an ounce for a rod.

#### TARES OR VETCHES.

The Tare, *Vicia Sativa*. There are two varieties, viz. the Spring Tare, and the Winter Tare, but as it is of importance to have green food as early as possible in the spring, the winter tare must be preferred.

The ground is to be dug deep, and made as fine as possible. The seed should be sown from the eighth month (August), to the tenth month (October); and the first sowing in spring, ought to be as early the season will permit. If a succession of crops be wanted, the sowings may follow each other to the end of the fifth month (May). The seed should be deposited in drills, nine inches apart, and when sown, it is necessary to guard against the depredations of pigeons, else they would be likely to destroy a great part of the crops.

#### TURNIPS.

There are many sorts of Turnips, both white and yellow. Of the white kind, the globe is preferred as it yields the largest crop, but the greenish, and purple-topped, with the bull-radish, stand the winter better. The pudding or Tankard Turnips grow very large, but for feeding cattle the yellow kind are the best, and particularly the Ruta Baga, or Swedish Turnip.

Great care is necessary in the choice of seed. The good is scarcely distinguishable by the eye from the bad: much therefore depends upon the integrity of the seedsman. It will be best to grow your own seed, and for this purpose select the finest roots, and take care that they are out of the way of the blossom of the Cabbage, or other plants of that kind. The same seed will not however continue to flourish upon the same soil; it must be frequently changed, and the best sorts are said to come from Norfolk. Remember if you get bad seed you lose a season. New seed is more secure from an attack of the fly than old seed.

The soil should be light, and thoroughly dug up, and pulverized. Dry loams are the best. About the end of the 4th month (April,) the seed must be sown upon a rod of ground, in a rich soil; one-third of a pint will be enough for 20 rods. If dry weather continue after the plants are up, let them be well watered. Early in the sixth month (June,) the plants will be strong enough to transplant, which must be done in moist weather. The roots of the plants should be dipped in a puddle, made of cow or other dung—the ground should be laid in ridges, into which a quantity of good dung must be put, and about a hundred weight and a half, if possible, to a rod. This is to be covered over with mould, and the turnips planted over the manure, as directed for potatoes; the rows must be 18 inches apart, and 12 inches from plant to plant. Or at the end of the 5th month (May,) prepare a quarter of a rod of ground, and continue to prepare and sow a quarter of a rod every three days until two rods are sown. If the fly appear, cover the rows in the day time with cabbage leaves, and take them off at night, hoe well between the plants, and when they are safe from the fly, thin them to four inches apart in the row. This will produce about 5000 plants. From this bed continue to transplant them out, from the middle of the 7th month (July,) to the middle of the 8th month (August.) Or, having prepared the land, you may sow the turnips in drills over the manure deposited in furrows, and afterwards thin them out, leaving the strongest and healthiest 12 inches apart, filling up the spots where the plants may have failed. By transplanting in this way, about 350lb. of turnips may be expected from a rod.

The leaves of turnips are good food for cows. Towards the end of Autumn, and before any severe frost occurs, the crop may be taken up, the tops not cut but twisted off. They must be stowed away quite dry, and covered with a coating of dry litter, or straw. They will not bear to be covered over with earth like potatoes.

When they are to be used, they must be washed, and cut in slices. If towards Spring they begin to sprout, they must be exposed to the sun and wind; after this, they may be slightly covered

with straw, or if the weather be favourable, even remain in the ground, just covering them over with litter.

#### CABBAGE.

Cabbage may be made to yield a large quantity of green food for cows and pigs, and the same ground may be made to bear Swedish turnips. The early York and Sugar loaf cabbages give no unpleasant taste to the milk. In order to raise a stock that shall stand the winter and come forward very early in the Spring, it is necessary towards the end of the 8th month (August,) to prepare a rod of ground, manure it well, sow one half of it with early York cabbages, and the other half with sugar loaf cabbages in little drills eight inches apart, the seeds thin in the drill. The plants should be thinned if nearer than two inches. As soon as they are up, you must hoe deeply, and again in a few days. The more you hoe between the cabbages the better, provided you do not disturb the roots. When the plants shall have attained six leaves, you must dig up, manure, and make fine another rod or two; prick out the plants in rows, eight inches apart, and three inches in the row; hoe the ground between them often, and they will be straight and strong. Early in the eleventh month (November,) lay some manure between the ridges in the rods of ground destined for cabbages, and turn the ridges over on this manure, then transplant your plants on the ridges, which will now cover the manure, at 15 inches apart; here they must stand the winter. Watch the slugs; if any plants fail, supply their places from the bed.

A rod should contain 144 cabbages, and this space may be easily divided into 144 parts by a pantile lath, just 5½ yards long, marked into 12 equal parts by streaks of black paint, or notches.

If the winter be hard, cover at least the seedling beds with a little litter or straw, dead grass, or fern. It must be laid along between the rows and the plant, so as not to cover the leaves; this will preserve them completely. If the ground is dry at top during winter hoe it, and particularly near the plants. Destroy all slugs and insects. In the third month (March,) when the ground is dry, hoe deep, and well, and earth the plants up close to the lower leaves. As soon as the plants begin to grow, dig the ground with a spade clean and well; go as near the plants as possible without displacing them; dig again in the fourth month (April,) hoe well, and destroy all weeds. About the first of the sixth month (June,) there will be cabbages. The early Yorks will soon become solid; these will continue to supply food for cows till some time in the ninth month (September.) In the third month (March,) and fourth month (April,) sow more early Yorks, proceeding as before directed. Dig up and manure the ground, and as fast as you cut cabbages, plant cabbages. The last planting should be about the middle of the 8th month (August,) with stout plants. These will serve until the eleventh month (November.) You may procure a crop of Swedish Turnips from the same ground which has borne cabbages in this way.

When cabbages are planted out in Autumn, put first a row of early Yorks, then a row of Sugar Loaves, and so on throughout the piece. As the early Yorks come first, you will of course, cut every other row, and the early Yorks which you are to plant in the summer will go in the intervals as the Sugar Loaves are cut away; put Swedish Turnips in their place, the ground being dug and manured, as in the case of the Cabbages, the Turnips will stand in rows two feet apart, and always a foot apart in the row.

To save Cabbage seed, select a few fine specimens, and plant them by themselves, out of the reach of the effects of the blossoms of other plants, of the Brassica tribe. The seed will keep for years.

(To be continued.)

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All Letters must be Post-paid.

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