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By M. MAC LEAN.

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AGRICULTURAL.

TOMATOES A CURE FOR SCOURS IN PIGS.
"This plant, the tomato, is generally at first killed by many—but it nevertheless is much cultivated, and a cured. Last fall, we had a pig that was taken with the scours badly. We tried various remedies for it with but little effect. One day we threw over it two or three tomatoes which it eat readily, and which we found gave it relief. By following this course a few days it was finally cured."—*Maine Farmer.*

We last fall had a Berkshire shot which was brought to leath's door by a protracted diarrhea, or looseness of the bowels. Suspecting that derangement of bilious secretion was the cause of the diarrhea, and knowing that tomatoes sometimes correct slight bilious derangement in the human patient, we tried it for a short time with the pig, but without any sensible benefit. We then gave him about 20 grains of calomel in a tomato, which operated well; and from that time he began to improve, and finally recovered, though slowly. We saw by the symptoms that he needed another dose of calomel, but we could not make him swallow it in any of his food, of which by the way, at that time he took very little; and we did not drench him. He formed, from the single dose, as strong an aversion to calomel as many hiped patients do.—He never could be induced to taste a tomato after the one in which he swallowed the calomel.—*ED. FAR. GAZ.*

THE AYRSHIRE CATTLE.

There appears to us to be carrying on at the present time a discussion with regard to the merits of Ayrshires, which is conducted in a spirit that is any thing but commendable. While one party contends that they are comparatively valueless, or of any value, that they may be produced by a cross by a Durham bull upon native cows by the thousand, the other, perhaps, claims more for them than they are entitled to, and indulges in too much asperity of feeling. As to ourselves, we think very highly of the Ayrshire breed, and believe them equal to any other for dairy purposes so long; and for such portions of our country where the natural grasses, of nutritive kinds, do not plentifully abound, or where the artificial ones are not successfully and extensively cultivated in connection with roots, that they are preferable to the Darhams, inasmuch as they are not such deep feeders. But for all the purposes of beef, so far as size and early maturity are concerned, where the raw material for raising and fattening are abundant, so far as our experience, and observation goes, there is no other breed which can compare with the Durham. We may add too, that we have seen deeper milkers among the Durham cows than in any other race—both of full bloods and grades. We sold a few years since, a three year old full blooded Durham heifer, which, with her first calf, gave 24 quarts of milk daily for several weeks, and we owned a full blooded cow, whose pedigree on the paternal line traced back to 1773—a glorious year—by which, when fresh, will give 25 quarts a day. These, however, were singular instances of deep milking, and do not go to establish any claims of superiority for the race. On the other hand, we saw two three year old Ayrshire heifers, imported by R. D. Shepherd, Esq. which, with their first calves, gave, respectively, 20 and 24 quarts of milk a day. These, too, we take it for granted, were rare specimens of their breed, and do not establish a rule. We have noticed this controversy to express our regret, that agricultural discussions should not be carried on in the kind feelings of brothers. It may possibly be tolerated in political partisans to call ugly names, and indulge in vituperation, but their example should be avoided by men engaged in the cultivation of the earth.—*American Farmer.*

From the Maine Farmer.

HERE'S THE BIGGEST HOG.
The following which has been handed to us by Wm. C. Fuller, Esq., was received from his friend Jameson, it will show you what a Kennebec pig will come to when fed on York county corn. Mr. Fuller sent to Mr. Jameson, a pair of pigs. The sow was obtained in Readfield, and we do not know what breed it

was. The Boar was obtained of Capt. Francis Perley of Winthrop, and was a grandson of the Berkshire boar imported by Capt. Lombard of Wales, and is now owned by Joshua Wing Esq. of this town. Its mother was a mix of Bedford, Mackay and some other strains, we don't know what.

CORNISHVILLE, March 24, 1842.

I have killed the boar pig, which I had of you, to-day. He weighed when alive, 1013 pounds. When dressed the meat weighed 905 pounds. Caul and heart weighed 35 1/2 pounds. Whole weight 942 1/2 lbs. Loss in dressing only 66 1/2 pounds. What think of that? Can you beat it in Kennebec? He had no extra keeping till last September—six bushels of potatoes and two bushels of meal lasted three of them two weeks, all through the spring and summer—I fed them but twice a day—mashed the potatoes and mixed with water and some milk.—Since September I have given him corn at noon. I could have made him weigh 1200 and I thought of making him a great hog to-day. I don't like the sow another like him. I don't like the sow so well and sold her. She had two pigs.—*J. JAMESON*

MUSTARD SEED

Mr. Editor—Please allow me to call the attention of my brother farmers, to the culture of White Mustard seed. I once raised about one fourth of an acre several years in succession, and found it to yield on land suitable for wheat, sown about the same time, as many bushels to the acre, or in the same proportion as wheat, when not infested with the weevil. The seed required, is, ten quarts to the acre, and is worth on an average three dollars per bushel. The seed therefore costs much less than wheat. The preparation of the land in all respects, and sowing equal. The mustard seed brings in the market double the money that wheat does. I close by asking why we do not raise more of it? I think there can be no answer given, only that father did not, and how long will we yankees be contented to hear that?

A. B.

N. B. The odor of the mustard when in full bloom, is very great. I suggest, if sown near wheat if the flavor might not be so disagreeable to the weevil, as to cause him to take leave of absence?

Maine Farmer.

From the American Farmer.

MEANS OF DESTROYING THE CURCULIO.
The following plan for destroying the Curculio, is from the pen of one of the most eminent nurserymen in our country, who is distinguished alike for his practical good sense, and scientific attainments.

The Curculio is one of the greatest enemies of the plum; indeed, in many sections of the country, the whole crop is frequently swept off by its attacks.—when its habits are well known, however, a little care will enable us to rid our gardens of these insects, so destructive to stone fruit.

The Curculio is a winged insect, which emerges from the ground about the time the trees are in blossom, and punctures the fruit almost as soon as it is formed depositing its eggs in the tender skin of the swollen germ. When the fruit has reached one third of its size, if we observe it closely, we shall discover the scar of this puncture made by the insect, in the shape of a semi-circle or small crescent, about a tenth of an inch in breadth. The egg has now taken the larva form, and the latter is working its way gradually to the stone or kernel of the fruit; as soon as it reaches this point, the fruit falls from the tree, and the worm now leaves it in a few days, and find its way into the loose soil of the tree. Here it remains until the ensuing season, when it emerges in a winged form, and having deposited its egg to provide for the perpetuity of its species, perishes.

As it is found that the Curculio, though a winged insect, is not a very migratory one the means to destroy it in our gardens are not without efficacy, though the neighboring orchards may not receive the benefit. As the fruit, when it falls from the tree, contains the larva, it is evident that if we prevent the fruit from falling, we shall destroy, with the Curculio, all small gardens, it is sufficient to gather the fallen fruit every morning, during the period of its fall from the tree, and throw it in the hog pens, when the whole will be speedily consumed. In larger orchards where it is practicable, the hogs may (the trees being protected) be turned in for the short time in the season while the fruit is dropping, and they will most effectually destroy the whole race of insects of the current season. Indeed, in large plum orchards, this practice is found a very effectual remedy for the attacks of the Curculio.

In small gardens that have come under our notice formerly much trouble with the attacks of this insect, where the practice of gathering the fruit and destroying it daily for a short period, has been pursued the insect failed to make its appearance for a couple of years, and the trees have borne abundant crops of fine fruit. In addition to this, we would recommend the application of clay about the roots of plum trees in very light sandy soil.

It is sometimes the case that the plum will be many years in coming into bearing, where the richness of the soil induces too great a luxuriance of growth. When this is the case, the ground should be partially removed from the roots, which should be pruned or reduced in number one fifth or one fourth, and the soil replaced. This should be done in the autumn, and will rarely fail in bringing about a profusion of blossoms and a good crop of fruit.

A. J. D.

Newburgh N. Y., Feb. 1841.

From the Maine Farmer.

A PREVENTIVE OF THE WEEVIL IN WHEAT.
MR. HOLMES—Great loss has been sustained in this section of the State for several years by the weevil. A remedy has been found—first suggested, I believe, by an *excellent and useful friend*, Dr. Leach of Sangerville. The remedy is as follows: Sow early in the spring, and when the wheat is up to the knee, sow a quart of rye with the wheat, and then to test the preventive, I sowed the borders of the field, sowing in width, with twelve quarts of rye. The result was, the weevils were destroyed in the rye, such numbers as to produce a famine in every bushel. There were no weevils in the wheat, and I think there was not a quart of rye grown in a hundred bushels of the wheat. My neighbors were amazed at my design of sowing the rye, but they were wanting in the faith, and their grain sown at the same time suffered very materially. *CALVIN CHAMBERLAIN.*

WHAT CONSTITUTES A WHEAT SOIL.

This question is one of pregnant import, and calculated, if followed up, to lead the mind into an interminable labyrinth of inquiry and disquisition. So interminable, indeed, do we consider it, that did we feel ourself competent to the task of pursuing it whether it would carry us, we would turn from its pursuit, under the belief that, for all the practical purposes of husbandry, the tracing it through its sinuosities would be labor unnecessarily thrown away. The object of this article being of a far less ambitious nature, we shall be content with showing what, in practice, has been found to produce good crops of wheat, both by chemists and practical farmers. According to the generally received opinions of intelligent agriculturists, clayey soils resting upon limestones, or clayey and calcareous loams, are the best adapted to the profitable growth of wheat. This opinion, is doubtless, correct, and justified as well by the observation of practical men as by the theory of the scientific; for in almost all such soils these minerals and salts are present, in some of their forms, which conduce to the healthful vegetation of the plant, and the perfect maturation of its grain. We are aware that, in the main, it is upon such soils the best and most productive crops of wheat are usually produced; but certainly this does not settle the point, that other and less appropriate soils, may not be profitably devoted to its culture; for the instances are innumerable where upon soils, in which sand largely predominates, heavy crops of this grain have been produced. To one of these instances it shall be our business now to call the attention of the reader, and we do so with the greater degree of pleasure, because it is one in which, by the skill and notable management of the proprietor, the physical magnitude of the soil has been successfully overcome; in which, by artificial appliances, its natural defects have been remedied.

We allude to the farm of Earl Stimson, of Galway, Saratoga County, New York. By the analysis of Dr. Steele, its soil consists of

Water,	85
Animal and vegetable matter,	12.5
Alumine (or clay)	15
Siliceous sand,	54
Carbonate of lime,	3
Sulphate salts,	1
Oxide of iron,	1
	94.5
Loss	15
	100.

Here then, is a soil in which sand predominates largely, and which by common consent, agreeably to the usual acceptation of the term among farmers, it would be denominated a sandy soil. It is, we think sure, a soil as most farmers would conclude, would be among the last from which a remunerating crop of wheat could be obtained, and yet it is adapted to a very superior wheat, upon a superficial examination of its component parts, it yields not only good but excellent crops of wheat, as well as of every thing else grown upon it. The why and the how will be apparent to the intelligent reader, when we come to unfold the treatment to which it is subjected by its judicious owner. Having laid down an enlightened system of improvement for himself, he follows it out with unflinching perseverance, and, as a necessary consequence, reaps the benefits of his happily conceived and well executed plans. Having premised this much, we will now state in what his system of management consists. In the first place he manures his land but once in six years—and his rotation of crops is this:

- 1st year Wheat manured,
- 2d " Corn—plastered,
- 3d " Flax, Rye, or Barley,
- 4th " Clover and Herd's grass, (timothy.)
- 5th " Clover and Herd's grass, (timothy.)
- 6th " Pasture.

We have said that he manures his

land but once in six years, and the reader may probably be inclined to suppose that that is a very heavy one; but such is not the fact, as we shall now show.

His dressing, per acre, consists of 5 loads of barn-yard manure, and 3 of leached ashes. It is not stated whether these are double or single horse cart loads; let us, however, suppose them to be double, and that the cart is of the capacity of 40 bushels. If we do so, this will give us two hundred bushels of barn-yard manure, and one hundred and twenty bushels of leached ashes as his dressing, and when it is considered, that this is all the manure the land gets for the period of 6 years, except the plastering of the corn, at the rate of 5 pecks to the acre, and the droppings of the stock on the pasture the sixth year, all must be willing to admit, that the quantity is most moderate indeed.

As to his method of preparing his ground for the wheat crop, and mode of applying the manure, it shall be our purpose now to speak.

After ploughing in his clover-ley, he spreads the manure of both kinds evenly on the ground, and either harrows, or ploughs it in by a very light ploughing, say not exceeding 3 inches in depth. In ploughing in the clover-ley, he takes care to have the soil turned flat, and before putting on the manure to have the furrows well rolled, so that the vegetable body turned under shall be disturbed as little as possible by the subsequent processes, to which the ground is subjected in the course of preparation for, and the seeding of, the wheat crop. He deems the surface application of the manure better than that of turning it under the soil, and that, though much may be lost by gaseous escape, still he gains more than he loses. He prefers leached ashes to un-leached, and considers lime the next best manure that can be applied.

Wheat, it will have been perceived, is the first crop in his rotation. This he usually sows in the autumn, at the rate of 2 bushels to the acre, which is harrowed in. His average crop is from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre on fields of from 50 to 60 acres.

Of Corn his average yearly product is about 5,000 bushels, and for ten years prior to 1832 had yielded above 100 bushels to the acre. He plants a small 8 rowed variety, on the ground whereon he grew wheat the previous year, in hills 2 feet 8 inches each way, leaving 4 stalks in a hill. In each hill at the time of dropping the corn, a small portion of plaster is put, and as we have before stated, at the rate of 5 pecks to the acre—and this is the only manure which it gets.

Potatoes he plants on the outside of his corn and at the same distance and as it. At the second hoeing of his potatoes, he takes pains to open the top of each hill with the foot, and to put a handful of dirt directly on the centre, by which means the sun is admitted to the potatoes, and contributes as he conceives to promote their growth. His average acreable yield, in a crop of 2,000 bushels, is about 500 bushels.

Flax with him is a valuable crop, yielding besides 20 bushels of seed per acre, about 400 pounds of flax. He is of opinion that flax may be grown once in six years, under his system, on the same ground.

Barley or Rye, in his rotation, usually follows corn. The former he considers the best crop with which to lay down his grass land.

Laying down grass.—In laying down grass, Mr. Stimson sows his grass seed at the time he sows his Barley, early in the spring, at the rate of 3 lbs of clover seed and 1 gallon of timothy, or herd's grass, as the eastern folks call timothy, to the acre. His crop of grass averages 21-2 tons to the acre.

We have thus given the views, and the practice under them, of one of the most successful farmers in the State of New York, and it will remain for the reader to determine in his own mind, in what his own practices differs from that of Mr. Stimson. Few farmers there are, it must be conceded, who pretend to manure at all, who, we should presume, use less manure than he does. Then to what is his success indebted? This is a question worthy of all consideration. We see him pursuing a course of six years rotation, and in that period taking off his land at least three exhausting crops, and still find his soil, light, and predominating in sand, and as it dies, maintaining its fertility, and in an average of ten years yielding its 30 and 40 bushels of wheat to the acre, and giving above 100 bushels of corn in an average annual crop of 5,000 bushels. These facts are calculated to awaken in our minds the desire to know why these things are so. Is it because he leaves his manure near the surface, to be acted upon by moisture, heat and air, and there act as a laboratory for the generation of carbon, and those other gases friendly to vegetation? Is it because, by the application periodically, of ashes, which doubtless abound in charcoal, the raw material for the manufacture of carbonic acid gas is always present for the use of the growing vegetables? Is it in part ascribable to his depasturing his grass fields the sixth year, and thus securing to it valuable supplies of those nutritive matters, of which the forces and liquid discharges of stock are known to abound? Without at-

tempting to settle either of these questions, it may not be amiss to suggest, whether the results of Mr. Stimson's combined application of ashes and barn yard manure, should not encourage others who, like him, have soils wherein sand predominates, to emulate his example? And whether any who have such lands, should be deterred from attempting the cultivation of wheat, wherever ashes can be procured, without costing too much? To us it would appear, that where ashes are not obtainable, but seaweed and marl, or lime are, that the use of such mixture would be an excellent substitute, as seaweed, in its process of decomposition, would throw out gases, similar in composition and effect, to those which ashes exert their best influence upon vegetation.—*Amer. Farmer.*

From the Farmers' Register.

REMARKS ON THE MAKING, PRESERVING AND APPLYING OF MANURES.
To the Editor of the Farmers' Register, Sandy Point February 26, 1842.

In the January number of the Register is an "Essay on the making, the preserving, and the applying of manures," on which I would take the liberty of making a few remarks. Passing over the preliminary observations of the writer, I will begin with his stable management. I am not aware that any farmer or owner of a horse, who pays a due regard to his own interest, the health and comfort of his horse, or to the most economical mode of making manure from that source is in any doubt as to "how long this [stable] litter ought to accumulate before it is removed," and that is that it should be removed every day. The writer of the essay is, however, of the opinion that it ought to remain until by its great heat it endangers the health of the animal. If stable manure, by its accumulation and consequent and unavoidable fermentation, should become at all offensive or deleterious to the health of the horses themselves, that deleterious tendency must be in operation from the moment such an accumulation commences; nor can any thing prove more injurious to the health or more entirely destructive to the comfort of the horse, and certainly none more slovenly on the part of the farmer, than the too frequent habit of many in allowing manure to accumulate in the stable. The essayist's plan of keeping "the stables clean, not by throwing out of fresh litter," is something like concealing filth by a coat of paint, and has nothing that I know of to recommend it. By the essayist's own admission, the health of the horse is endangered by the practice, and I know from experience that it is not the most economical mode of making manure, and that in scarcely any other position will stable manure become sooner fetid, and injured. In Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Agriculture is the following remark: "The dung should be removed [from the stable] if possible wholly with a coat of paint, and has nothing that the exhalations from that are also ammoniacal, and consequently hurtful. To this cause alone, we may attribute many diseases, particularly the great tendency stable horses have to become afflicted in the eyes."

The essayist gives the preference to the feeding of cattle in pens, and subsequently states, "here also, great cleanliness ought to be observed, which can easily be secured by frequent supplies of fresh litter." In pen feeding, with the most ample and frequent supplies of litter, I have never yet been able to secure that amount of cleanliness so desirable to the health and comfort of the animals so fed. Cattle on whom there is no demand made either on their labor or produce, may thus be kept in tolerable plight; but milch cows and working oxen can never be subjected to this mode of feeding with benefit to themselves or profit to their owners; nor do I think that a larger or equal amount of manure can be made by pen feeding, than can be made by the same number of cattle stalled, daily cleaned, and fresh littered. I believe, by the experience of those who have tried both modes, the preference is given, in point of quality if not quantity of manure to that from stalled cattle.

The essayist's mode of feeding hogs is not such as I think would suit the judicious hog breeder. Filthy as the general habits of the hog are supposed to be, it is an animal that is greatly benefited by cleanliness in keeping, and especially in feeding. As a manure raiser, the hog is certainly a valuable animal, and will amply repay his owner for plentiful supplies of litter, and for having his sty or pen frequently cleaned out. The supplying, however, of hog pens with "scraps of roads, ditches, &c. or of rich deposits of mud," is, I think, at best of doubtful economy; and in a majority of instances the labor of hauling and depositing such materials in the pens is unnecessary, if not injurious. If the deposits of mud, &c., are rich, why not haul them at once to the fields to be manured? The fermenting of either of them in the hog pens cannot be attended with any benefit, unless they contain a large proportion of inert vegetable matter, approaching to the nature of peat, which in this climate very rarely occurs. In the Farmers' Magazine, vol. xv., p. 351, are the following remarks: "Making composts, ther, of rich soil of this description, with dung or

lime, mixed or separate, is evidently, to say the least of it, a waste of time and labor. The mixture of earths of this description with dung produces no alteration in the component parts of the earth where there is no inert vegetable substance to be acted on; and the mixture of earth full of soluble matter with dung and quicklime, in a mass together, had the worst effects, the quicklime decomposing and uniting with the soluble matter of the earth as well as that of the dung; thus rendering both in every case, less efficient as manures, than if applied separately from the quicklime, and even the quicklime itself inferior as a manure for certain soils, than if it had never been mixed with the dung and earth at all."

The essayist's theory, "that liquids are quite as necessary, and even more so, in exciting and hastening the decomposition of the litter than the solids are," appears to me unqualified. That moisture is necessary to induce fermentation cannot be doubted; but it is equally certain that an excess of moisture is destructive and affords to the farmer the best means of checking and preventing injurious fermentation.

On the preserving of manures, the essayist observes, "As a general rule, manures ought always to be used, or at least placed in a situation to be used, as soon as thoroughly made;" and subsequently occurs the terms, "properly made," "fully made." I would ask the writer, when is manure thoroughly, properly, fairly, fully made? On this point much diversity of opinion prevails. If I, from some experience, might venture to give an opinion, I would say that the slighter the degree of fermentation which takes place before manure is applied, as a general rule, the better in colder climates, the bringing in of an incipient fermentation in manure before its application to the soil may be a desirable object; but in this climate the difficulty appears to me to be, with the judicious farmer, not in obtaining or facilitating but in preventing fermentation. On this subject, and for the climate of England, Davy speaks as follows:

"A slight incipient fermentation is undoubtedly of use in the dung; for by means of it a disposition is brought on in the woody fibre to decay, and dissolve, when it is carried to the land, or ploughed into the soil; and woody fibre is always in great excess in the refuse of the farm."

"Too great a degree of fermentation is, however, very prejudicial to the composition of manure in the dung; it is better that there should be no fermentation at all before the manure is used, than that it should be carried too far. This must be obvious from what has been already stated in this lecture. The excess of fermentation leads to the destruction and dissipation of the most useful part of the manure; and the ultimate results of this process are like those of combustion."

"It is a common practice amongst farmers to suffer the farm-yard dung to ferment till the fibrous texture of the vegetable matter is entirely broken down, and till the manure becomes perfectly cold, and so soft as to be easily cut by the spade."

"Independent of the general theoretical views unfavorable to this practice founded upon the nature and composition of vegetable substances, there are many arguments and facts which show that it is prejudicial to the interests of the farmer."

"During the violent fermentation which is necessary for reducing farm-yard manure to the state in which it is called short muck, not only a large quantity of fluid, but likewise of gaseous matter, is lost; so much so, that the dung is reduced one-half, or two thirds in weight; and the principal elastic matter disengaged is carbonic acid, with some ammonia; and both these, if retained by the moisture in the soil, as has been stated before, are capable of becoming a useful nourishment of plants."

The essayist's observation on the best mode of applying manures, "that he has come to the conclusion that the application of rotted manure as a top-dressing, and the coarse and unrotted to be immediately ploughed under," is contrary to the experience and practice of many intelligent and observant farmers. The shortest manure are doubtless the best adapted for winter and spring application. For any hoe crop immediately following. For example, the application of coarse litter, such as straw or corn-stalks only partially decomposed, to a field previous to planting corn, will cause serious impediment in the subsequent culture of the crop; and without any appreciable benefit to this or the following crop. On the other hand, the application of such manure, and also of dry straw, leaves, &c., which have undergone no previous fermentation, as a top-dressing on clover, is attended with the happiest effects, both to the clover and succeeding wheat or corn crop. I have seen finely rotted manure, dry straw from the stack, and dry and recent leaves from the woods, applied to either side by side, and the best results were from the covering of dry straw. I have also seen young wheat top-dressed with pine leaves (or unrotted) and with benefits which, though of course less in degree, were as distinctly marked as I have ever seen from the application of rotted stable or farm pen manure. Numerous authorities might be quoted in support of using manure as a top-dressing