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AND
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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Improvement of Worn-Out Land.

To the Editor of the Cheraw Gazette.

Sir—With your permission I will occasionally occupy a small space in your paper with such hints and suggestions as may from time to time occur to me, and may be deemed interesting to your *Agricultural* readers. It may be a trite, but it is nevertheless a very true remark, that every man knows something which it would profit others to learn. In confirmation of this I have heard it affirmed of a very distinguished individual* of this section of country, that he had never conversed with any man upon the subject of Agriculture, that he did not learn something from him.

Emboldened by such authority, I will suggest what seems to me a very economical mode of improving worn out land, and ameliorating, in the highest degree, that which is stiff and unkind of culture. Sometime between the first and middle of October, sow down with Rye at the rate of about a peck and a half per acre, ploughed in even, to a good depth. If it be stubble land and has lain out for several years previous, it should be first thoroughly cleansed of all roots, briers, &c. and then burnt. Land in this condition should have two ploughings; the first a very deep one about a month previous to the sowing of the rye; when it is in full bloom, then sow on the common cow peas, and turn all under carefully and thoroughly. In the fall before fructification has commenced with the peas, it should be laid off with a ten inch shovel plough, the distance required for the rows, (whether for corn or cotton) and well bedded with the dagon or cutter. Early the next spring, reverse these beds and plant upon them. This process would certainly yield a profitable return upon any land, however poor it might be, and upon some of our stiff and impermeable clays the production would be double. The enriching qualities of these two green crops would be very great, if turned under when they ought to be; that is, before the period of fructification. Chaptal says in an article "on the effects of plants upon the soil," that "it is well known to farmers, that ploughing in a green crop of any kind whatever, prepares the soil for producing well without any other manure; since, by this process, all that the soil has yielded is returned to it with some additions, resulting from the decomposed principles of air and water, which are contained in the plants."

The reasons why I have selected rye and the cow pea are, that they grow upon any soil, produce succulent vegetation, transpire but little, and hence make an entire return to the soil.—Every planter, whether great or small, could manure at least a portion of his lands in this way, which would enable him to use more freely his compost in other places. ARATOR.

* The late Gov. David R. Williams.

From the American Farmer.

NEAT CATTLE—Different breeds adapted to different circumstances—Which best suited to the Atlantic States?—At some more leisure moment, we will submit, more in detail than we have time to do now, our impressions in respect of the different races of cattle, and the better adaptation of one or another, to different circumstances and different parts of the country. It is a subject on which we profess to have read much, to have reflected not a little, and to have had some experience; and without stopping now to give all the reasons which lead to it, we will yet express, for what it is worth, our opinion, that for the tide-water, slave-holding, corn, wheat and cotton country, with its indifferent pastures and not very careful management, what in England is called the North Devon cattle are best suited. This is probably, the popular opinion, but with us, *truth*, we trust, or what we believe to be truth, will always have precedence of *popularity*—Value so often consists in *quantity*, that in the public estimation it is too frequently confounded with it—Largest and best are applied synonimously in many cases where it would be nearer the truth to say the larger is the worse, and this is emphatically true in numerous instances with reference to *domestic animals*. To speak particularly of cattle—meaning neat cattle, there are various points of view in which the subject is to be considered; and chiefly; *the principal uses the breeder has in view, and the kind, quantity and value of his means of subsisting and rearing them.*

In Kentucky or Ohio for instance, the breeder's object is almost exclusively *beef*, or at least in very large proportion to the capital invested in his cattle—With a herd of one or two hundred, sometimes more, he has occasion for no more oxen and no more milk and butter, than has the planter of Maryland, Virginia or the Carolinas, who keeps not more than twenty or thirty head.

With the former the great, the almost exclusive object is, to turn his redundant crops of corn and grass into the greatest quantity of meat, in the shortest possible time; to be barreled up or sent on the hoof to market; and for that object it must be conceded that the improved short horn, commonly called the Durham breed, or the half breed between the Durham *bull* and the best common stock, is the best. They, *with abundance of rich food*, will give much more beef of good quality in much shorter time, than any other race; but with the planter and farmer of the tide-water slave-holding region, where grass is not so abundant and corn too near to market and too high to warrant its being turned into beef; the case is essentially different—Hence their herds are comparatively small, and more equally divided if we may say so, in the uses we make of them between the yoke—the shambles—and the dairy—and for these three purposes, taken together, in reference to the importance of each respectively, in the economy of a tide-water slave-holding estate, we consider the Devon as having decided claims to preference over the short horn, and think it probable that the Ayrshire, which we apprehend may be regarded as the short horn in miniature, is entitled to rank next to the Devons under like circumstances.

The short horn may be considered an *artificial made up breed*, manufactured with great care, after many years, and with strict and we may add scientific reference, to all points and properties external and internal. To keep them up to the same degree of excellence to which they have been thus brought by great skill in the choice of breeding stock and high feed, will require great vigilance, extraordinary judgment, and the best keep. Under any falling off in these guarantees and precautions, it may well be expected that deterioration will immediately ensue.—The coarse points of the large boned fill-pail thin-milk Holstein race, relied on by the milk-sellers of London, and forming principally the basis of the improved breed, after having been worked out, or made to *dip* as it were under so much care and skill, will, when these are relaxed, reappear on the surface in all their deformity. Nothing but a continuance of that assiduous attention and nice selection to refine the breed, can keep it from, as it were, *flying to pieces*; whereas the Devon is of itself a distinct race, uniform and beautiful in its colour, and marks of middling size, head and limbs bony and delicate, giving very rich milk, next after the Alderney, but not often in extraordinary quantity, fattening very kindly, giving beef of fine quality, and for the yoke excelling all others, as to quickness and docility.

We sometimes read, it is true, of great quantities of milk given by improved short horns. For instance—

The Philadelphia U. S. Gazette gives as the result of the milking of a short horned Durham cow, during the week commencing 27th May and ending 2d June, 7 days, 194 quarts, being within a fraction of 28 quarts per day, and from which were made 25lb. butter of the finest quality.

And still better are the good doings of the 'Dairy Maid,' the property of Jas. Gowan, of Germantown, who gave in 7 days, from 5th to 11th June, 198 1-2 quarts, being an average of more than 28 quarts per day—butter not yet ascertained. The next week's milk was expected to be greater, from improved feed; the feed of the past week was pasture, with a basket of grass morning and evening cut from a head-land of a grain field, except on the evenings of the last three days, when a handful of chopped corn, with shorts from the hay-mow was added Dairy Maid is a beautiful roan, of the improved short-horn Durham stock, bred by Mr. Whitaker, of Yorkshire—imported last fall, and in point and proportions is said to have no superior. Her pedigree, which may be found in the 3d volume of the Herd Book, is inferior to no cow on record.

When it is considered that the short horn cows generally cost upwards of $500, it may be taken for granted, that they are not put off with any thing like the common keep that would be given to ordinary country cows that would cost not more than $40 or $50, or Devon cows that may be had for an hundred—yet as to mere quantity of milk, we have known a small red and white cow of the "country breed" from Adams County, Pa., property of Mr. Gregg, of Franklin-street, Baltimore, to give thirty-two quarts a day, and have heard of a cow of no extraordinary family pretensions, belonging to Mr. T. F. B. of Upper Marlbro,' giving even more than that; and there are cows in the herd of Devon Cattle on the estate of George Patterson, Esq. near Sykesville, (perhaps the most uniformly alike fat sleek deep mahogany red coloured and beautiful pen of cows to be found in any country,) which have this summer given 12 and 13 quarts at a milking.

To sum up, in a few words, the grounds of preference of the Devon over all other cattle for all the country east of the mountains, it may be said, that for size, hardiness, and dairy properties, they are at least equal to our country cattle, while for beauty they are far superior, being all of the same deep rich morello cherry colour, with a clear white handsomely tapering horn, and white brush to the tail, with sometimes a little white on the udder, while for richness of milk they are superior to our common cattle, and for easiness to be broke, and quick motion under the yoke they are proverbial. Finally they fatten early and quickly, and will keep up to the mark with overseer and negro treatment and short rations, under which the pampered short horn so early to maturity and so valuable on the rich prairies of the west, would degenerate, and as we said before, soon fly to pieces!

Advantage of Soiling Horses.

With respect to the advantages of *soiling horses on green food*, in the yard or stable, it seems to be now generally understood that, with proper management, they can now be supported with great vigor; its economy, however, must depend on the proportion which it bears to the price of dry food, and its convenience to the quantity in which it can be spared for other cattle.

It is a very old, though by no means a universal practice,* and the experience of hundreds of farmers proves that horses maintained in that manner for years have neither lost flesh nor strength sufficient for all farming purposes, although there was no palpable saving of their work, and that, though afterwards placed on dry food during the winter, they continued in perfect health. It is an excellent plan to give some green food along with the corn and chaff, before the usual period of feeding on dry fodder; the change from dry to green, and again from green to dry food, should be gradual. In its commencemen, the clover or tares should be cut, and mixed in small portions with straw, and a proportionate quantity of corn should be reduced. The green food is insensibly increased, until the corn is entirely omitted, and the quantity of green meat is supplied without limitation: it should, however, be cut over-night, and given only in small quantities gradually increased, to guard as much as possible from accidents, which may arise from its succulence by hoving. When horses are soiled, they never should get much at a time, a practice far too prevalent among servants.

The *summer feeding of horses* was formerly confined to pasturage; but of late years the practice of soiling has become very general. The benefit of grazing consists in its requiring little attendance; and being the most natural, and therefore the most healthful, it is preferable for all young cattle which can be spared from constant labour, and on farms which contain a considerable portion of rough pasture. But for horses at regular work, these advantages are counterbalanced by the time lost in getting them up from the field; the indisposition to labour which they acquire by being at large; and the annoyance they suffer from heat and flies when turned out in the day-time. The value of their dung and urine is also in a great measure destroyed by being scattered upon the surface of the ground, and exposed to exhalation from the sun and wind; and there is much waste of grass, and injury done to the mellowness of the soil, if it be valuable land, by the treading of all heavy stock, but especially the horses. The utility of soiling consists in a more economical consumption of grass, whether natural or artificial, than by grazing; in the accumulation of manure, and in the quiet and coolness which the cattle enjoy under sheds, or in the stable, during mid-day, as well as their being always ready when wanted; the only disadvantage is the expense of cutting and carrying home the grass, against which may be fairly set the increase of manure, if expense be really incurred; but as, during summer, there is usually a long interval of rest between the morning and afternoon work, the carters can then cut the necessary quantity, which may be drawn to the homestead by one of the team horses, if there should not be a supernumerary one left for odd jobs.

When, however, the economy of the practice is not the chief consideration, horses on summer work may be *both grazed and soiled*. They may be put on dry clover in the middle of the day, between yokings, and turned out during the night into a well sheltered meadow or enclosure. In being kept under cover during the heat of the day, they will be sheltered from flies, and will feed more at ease; and in being pastured out during the night, they will also have an opportunity of selecting those grasses which act as condiments and are most agreeable to their palate. All animals like variety of grasses, selecting always what is most palatable, which they cannot do when soiled, particularly if fed on cut clover or tares. Exposure to the night air is also found to be highly favourable both to their health and appearance.

The economy of soiling, wherever it can be conveniently adopted, is, indeed, too generally admitted to need the support of argument; and particularly on soils on which turnips are entirely consumed on the ground, or on which they cannot be grown, and where consequently there is difficulty in converting the straw into manure during the winter, it cannot be too strongly recommended. But it requires a succession of green crops; and as only the artificial grasses are resorted to in England—though in many parts of the continent the meadows are mown for that purpose—it is necessary that winter and summer tares should be sown at different periods, so as to afford a constant supply, both before clover comes in, and after the first crop is off. This is a great impediment to the practice in Scotland, and some of our northern counties, where tares are an uncertain crop; though cattle are certainly soiled with great advantage, both there and in other places, on clover alone. In other situations too, farms, on strong clay, frequently contain a large portion of meadow, and grazing being combined with tillage, the whole of the straw is consumed in the winter; in which case one of the chief advantages of summer soiling would be lost, as yard dung, without the addition of straw, is of very little value. But even in this instance, or in others where the distance of the fields from the homestead may be opposed to the carriage of the grass, it is better to cut it daily, and give it on the ground in pens, or small enclosures hurdled off, so as to prevent the cattle from injuring the growing crop, than to allow them to range over and trample it. By confining them in this manner to a small space and moving the hurdles forward as the grass is eaten, the fertilizing properties of the dung and urine, which would otherwise be lost, are in a considerable degree preserved; and if the land be immediately ploughed, it will be nearly as much benefitted as if it were more regularly manured.

* It is mentioned in a treatise on Agriculture entitled "Harlib's Legacy," so long ago as 1650, p. 245.

The artificial grasses used for soiling are the same as those already enumerated as hay, but here *tares* take the lead, both because the winter species is earlier ready than any other, except rye-grass, and affords a weightier crop. In most seasons, tares are ready for the scythe towards the middle of May, for if left till they are quite ripe they will become unfit for soiling before the crop can be used; and although there may be some loss in using them so soon, it will be compensated by the saving at the latter end, as well as by commencing the soiling sooner than would be otherwise practicable. Before they are off, clover will be ready; the tares still standing may then be made into hay, and by the time the clover is becoming strawy, and losing its succulence, spring tares will come in, which, if they have been sown at intervals of about a fortnight each, will last until the second cut of clover; or, if spring-tares be not sown, the growth of part of the clover may be checked by light early feeding. There is also an excellent fashion regarding soiling in Dorsetshire, which consists in saving a portion of rye alone, to be cut green; then another portion of rye with tares; and afterwards the remainder entirely with tares: the rye comes first into use, and assists in raising the earlier tares, while those of latter growth do not require any such nursing. Thus horses may be kept upon a succession of green herbage, without touching the meadows, throughout four months of the summer and autumn, and while thus fed, require very little corn; when stirring the fallows, and during the hurry of harvest, a couple of feeds a-day may be serviceable, but more is unnecessary, and at other times should be wholly omitted.

The mention of *lucerne* has been omitted, although extremely valuable for soiling, because it requires a peculiar quality of land, and is not commonly cultivated. In the Essex report, it is said, that two horses have been supported during four months upon a quarter of an acre, with scarcely any thing given to them besides; and that six horses, on hard work, have been kept on lucerne instead of hay, but with an allowance of oats and chaff for twelve weeks—six from the first cut; four from the second; and two from the third; which, valuing the hay saved at 3s. per horse per week, would amount to 10*l.* 16s.* A paper in the communications to the Board of Agriculture also states that, in one year, twenty-three horses have been kept twenty weeks, and in the next, twenty-eight horses during eighteen weeks, upon eleven acres alone, which gives an average of three roods per horse in nineteen weeks.† It is also extensively used on the coast of Normandy, and in the neighbouring islands of Guernsey and Jersey; but it is there said that horses, particularly those used for the saddle, require more precaution from overworking, when first going out of the stable, than when fed on other hay; and, what is singular, that, when soiled on green lucerne, there is not the same danger.‡

In Holland and Flanders, where the feeding of cattle is supposed to be better understood than in most places, the summer soiling of farm horses is limited to half an acre of meadow grass, cut and carried to the stables, from the middle of May to the middle of June; from which time to the end of August one sixth of an acre of clover is added, with 2lbs. daily of beans; and from thence to November, when the winter feeding commences, the clover is replaced by an equal quantity of carrots. From the number of horses stated, in this instance, to be kept in proportion to the tillage—11 to 150 acres of alluvial soil—their labour can however be only light; though a pair is said to draw a ton and a half of manure in the field, and three tons upon pavement.§

Accounts have been also published, showing that horses may be regularly worked throughout the summer, in this country, without any corn; thus green crops, consumed by soiling, are said to go four times as far as when grazed; and that, in this manner, one acre of clover is equal to six of meadow pasture. But many of these statements rest only on opinion, or upon insufficient data, and in all, so much depends on the state of the crop, the size and health of the animal, and the work performed, of which the account is generally imperfect, that no safe conclusion can be drawn from them: it is therefore unnecessary to refer to them; nor is the cause which they are meant to promote assisted by being advocated upon any other than its real merits. A medium-sized farm-horse, at customary labour, consumes from 84 lbs. to one cwt. of green food daily, with an occasional allowance of corn. Now a good acre of tares, or of broad clover, will weigh twelve tons (that is presuming the tares to be cut only once, and the clover twice; * for although winter tares may be cut again, it is more usual to get them off the land as soon as possible, either in order to sow turnips, or to form a bastard fallow); and taking that weight as the average of both, and the consumption at the highest rate, half an acre of either would support a horse during four months. This nearly accords with some instances in the county surveys; in others, more have been consumed, and, for the reasons already stated, it is next to impossible that any two accounts should agree; but, upon a rough estimate, it may be affirmed, that about a perch per day will be required for each horse in most seasons, and on most kinds of land, if soiled, and that double that quantity will be necessary if pastured.†

It must however, be borne in mind that the difference in the degree of succulence contained in various grasses, must necessarily have a material influence on the state of the cattle by which they are consumed. Of this farmers are generally pretty well informed, either through their own observation, or by the experience of others; but an accurate acquaintance with the subject was not attained until the experiments made at Woburn, by which Mr. Sinclair has been enabled to ascertain the quantity of soluble nutritive matter afforded by all those grasses which constitute the produce of the richest ancient pastures, as well as those of artificial growth.

The custom of giving corn along with green meat is unprofitable; for the grain, thus mixed, passes rapidly off the stomach, and is never properly digested. When, however, increased exertion demands an addition of more substantial food, and that corn is also allowed, it should be given only in the morning and night, accompanied with a sufficient quantity of chaff to afford it consistence, and green meat should only be given at mid-day. Farmers very generally omit that precaution, and it is a common custom among them to allow half the usual quantity of corn, without regard to the effect of the watery juices of grass upon the digestion; but they may be assured that a great portion of the nutriment contained in the grain is thus wasted.

British Husbandry.

* Young's Survey of Essex, vol. ii. pp. 71, 72.

† Vol. vii. Art. 25, Part I.

‡ Quayle's Survey of the Islands on the Coast of Normandy, p. 117.

§ Radcliffe's Report of the Agriculture of East and West Flanders, p. 216. Another farm of 200 acres mentioned in the same Report is cultivated by eight horses, each of which get daily, in winter, 15 lbs. of hay, 10 lbs. of straw, and 8 lbs. of oats; and after every feed a bucket of water 'richly whitened with rye or oatmeal;' in summer clover is substituted for hay, but the other feeding remains the same, and the 'white water' is never omitted, p. 54.

* From an experiment made at Woburn, the green weight of an acre of broad clover was found to be 49,005 lbs—21 tons, 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 5 lbs.; but the soil is described as rich clayey loam, and the crop cannot be assumed as an average. See Sinclair's Hortus Gramineus Wobernensis; and the Appendix to Sir H. Davy's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry.

† In one instance it is stated that twenty horses have been supported for three months on 6 acres of tares (Rutlandshire Reports, p. 71); and in another, that 51 head of cattle—cows, oxen and horses—were kept during that period, on 15¼ acres of mixed herbage; or, in each about half a perch per day. [Comm. to the Board of Agriculture, vol. vii. part 1, art. 1]. A third mentions that 12 horses and 5 cows, which, together, may be considered equal to 18 horses, consumed in the same time, or 3 qrs. and k. 32 of a perch each daily (Middlesex Report, p. 257); and a fourth states the allowance of pastured tares, for 12 horses, to be an acre per week, or nearly 2 perch each day. (Essex Report, vol. ii. p. 354.)

From The Cultivator.

On the Application of Manures.

Fredericksburg, Va. June 16th, 1839.

J BUEL—Dear Sir—In your paper for the present month, I have read the following intimation; "*a subscriber wishes Mr. Garnet's opinion of the best method of applying manures to land;*" and presuming that I am the person meant, I avail myself of the earliest opportunity to evince my willingness to gratify him. But as no man's mere opinion on such subjects, is worth any thing without the facts and reasons upon which it is founded, I shall take it for granted, that he desires to hear both, and will therefore state them together.

Whether your subscriber means by the term "*manures*," all things commonly so called, or only putrescent substances, I have had but one opinion for a long time in regard to their application, and this has been confirmed by all my subsequent experience, each year adding something to the great mass of constantaneous facts.—When my attention was first turned to this subject, some thirty-five or forty years ago, I had adopted, but without examination, the notion then most common amongst us, that it was best to let all putrescent manures be well rotted first, and next, to bury them deep, either by the plough, spade, or hoe. This notion, like the common law, was so old, that "the memory of man extended not to the contrary;" but happily for us all, the revolution had broken the entail of opinions as well as of landed estates, and left us at liberty to think and act for ourselves. The natural consequence of this increased freedom was, the introduction of many new practices in the arts, as well as in government; and agriculture came in for some small share of these benefits. Among them, was the application of putrescent manures to the surface, and in a much less fermented state than had ever been tried before. But so dreadfully afraid were the first experimenters of the formidable laugh of that once numerous family, "The Goodenoughs," that they made their trials, as it were, by stealth; and consequently, the results remained, for a long time, unknown, except to a few. I happened to be among the number, and could not long resist the evidence of my own senses, although I must confess, that at first, it seemed to me a sort of sacrilege, even to doubt, and still more to act, in direct opposition to an opinion which, for aught I know, had descended from Triptolemus himself. By degrees, however, my courage waxed stronger and stronger every year, until I felt myself brave enough to commence the following experiment, which several old farmers in whose veracity I perfectly confided, had assured me they had often tried, and always with the same result, as that which I am about to report in my own case.

I began penning my cattle late in the spring, and continued it until frost, in pens of the same size, moved at regular intervals of time, and containing the same number of cattle during the whole period. These pens were alternately ploughed, and left unploughed, until the following spring, when all were planted in corn, immediately followed by wheat. The superiority of both crops on all the pens which had remained unploughed for so many months, after the cattle had manured them, was just as distinctly marked as if the dividing fences had continued standing. it was too plain to admit even of the slightest doubt. A near neighbor, a young farmer, had made the same experiment, on a somewhat different soil, the year before, but with results precisely the same. Similar trials I myself have made and seen made by others with dry straw, alternately ploughed in as soon as spread, and left on the surface until the next spring. In every case the last method proved best, as far as the following crop would prove it. The same experiment has been made by myself and others of my acquaintance, with manure from the horse-stables and winter-farm pens, consisting of much unrotted corn offal; and without a solitary exception, either seen by me, or heard of, the surface application, after the corn was planted, produced most manifestly, the best crop. Upon these numerous, concurrent, and undeniable facts my opinion has been founded, that *it is best to apply manures on the surface of land;* and "I guess," (as brother Jonathan would say,) that is not likely to change, unless indeed, I should hear a still greater number, equally well authenticated, on the opposite side; although I must say, that up to the present time I have not heard a solitary one. True it is, that I have read many ingenious, fine spun arguments in opposition to the opinion which I hold in common with numerous other agriculturists, but no proofs whatever have accompanied them, and therefore I must remain an infidel, until they are sustained and corroborated by such facts, as should always be deemed indispensable to establish any practice whatever, in any of the various branches of husbandry. To collect these facts is a slow, and most tedious process, not very flattering to that pride of opinion who delights in speculative theories of our own elucidation, and sickens at the mere thought of the labor necessary to make, to watch, and to record accurate experiments in agriculture. In no other way, I think, can we account for those differences of opinion as to matters of practice, found among our brethren, where all the facts are on one side. But to refuse to believe in that which we cannot explain, unless in some way that tickles our own vanity, gave rise to the sect of sceptic philosophers, and it is to be feared, will keep up the breed as long as the world stands. Let me not be here misunderstood. Far be it from me to object to theory and speculation, provided the sole object in concocting and maintaining them, be to arrive at truth. As this should be the aim of all, I am in favor of the utmost latitude of discussion in the honest pursuit of it. But I do, and will forever protest against that practice which is far too common amongst us, of regarding plausible scientific conjectures, so much more than the actual results of experiments fairly and accurately made, as not unfrequently to indulge our fancies with the former, even in direct opposition to the latter. Take, for example, the two conflicting creeds as to the best mode of applying manures, and test them by the uniformly concurring results of the several experiments which I have stated. All these results undeniably prove, that the surface application was best; although the kinds of manure differed considerably. And what have we in opposition, any facts whatever? Not one; and only the conjecture, that the evaporation from surface spread manure must carry off the greater and best portion of the food of plants therein contained. But that such evaporation cannot thus act, seems to me to be unquestionably proved by every fact I have mentioned: for, *if it did*, then the land of summer cow pens ploughed up as soon as removed, would, in every case, have produced better crops, than that of the *unploughed*, instead of doing it in none. Similar results too must have followed in the other cases I have stated, although I have never seen nor heard of their doing it in any. The effects however, which *really have taken place* (facts though they undeniably are,) happen to contradict, as plainly as we see the nose on a man's face, certain preconceived fictions, or ingenious theories if you please to call them so—quoad manures—in the propagation of which much paper and ink has already been consumed, much head work is still employed; and what is to be done? Shall all this labor, all the ponderous volumes elaborated by it, all the cogitations in support of those theories, which are now taking the rounds in our agricultural papers—shall all be discarded as things serving only to show how much fonder men are of their own speculations, than of facts the occurrence of which brings