

AGRICULTURAL.



From the American Farmer. ON THE FARM.

Accumulation of Manures.—Among all the labors of the farm, this should stand first; for say what we may to the contrary, no farmer can cultivate his farm to profit, who is negligent in supplying his corn, root, and truck crops, generally, with manure. Let us cultivate such crops as we may, devote to them as much labor as we may, unless we feed them with a liberal measure, their products will be meagre and unrequiting; so also will be the crops that are to follow them in successive rotations, as the ground-work of their feed is generally laid in the preparation of the ground for corn and other hoe crops. As to the sources whence the materials are to be drawn to make manure, we have so often specified them, that it is almost useless to repeat them here, and we will only speak of them in general terms—peat, marsh mud, scrapings of the lanes, roads and yards, mould and leaves from the woods, the mould from head-lands, fence corners and fence-sides, weeds and grass from the marshes and elsewhere, corn-stalks, offal of every kind susceptible of being rotted—each and all of these form materials for making composts, and if gathered and formed into heaps to decompose, will make excellent manure by next spring. The best disposition that could be made of them, would be to spread them over your cow yards and hog pens. Placed there through the fall and winter, they would, by spring time, form a body of the most enriching manure, and be worth, pound for pound, fully as much, if not more than so much stable manure. Perhaps there are farmers who, after reading this, will say, we have no time for such employment—no hands to be thus employed! To such we would say, that your interest would be very sensibly promoted by appropriating two hands and a team for six weeks to such work—that the force thus employed, during the period named, would enable you to make three bushels of corn for everyone you will make if you neglect our advice. To cultivate corn without manure is killing to man and beast, while it actually robs the farmer's pocket and finally drives him to sell his home-land and go among strangers, to encounter, in his age the hardships of a frontier life. No farmer ought to consider that he has fulfilled his duty, who does not, in the course of the year make five double horse loads of manure for every cleared acre of land on his place—that will give him 20 loads to the acre for his corn, besides a supply for potatoes, turnips, and truck generally. Liming.—If your land has been long in culture without having been limed, you may conclude that it requires a dose of lime. If it be very poor, 15, 20, or 25 bushels to the acre will be enough for a first application. Indeed, ten bushels to the acre will be of essential benefit. If you design the field for spring culture, the lime should be spread as soon as you can conveniently spare the time to do so. If you have marl, you may spread on such land as we have described, about 75 bushels to the acre. Compost for Light Sandy Land.—Ten double horse cart loads of clay and ten of barn-yard manure, will do more permanent good than 20 loads of manure without the clay. The clay and manure should be shoveled well over so as to incorporate the one with the other. Corn Cobs for Milk Cows.—As these contain a very sensible portion of nutritive matter besides other substances of value, you should grind them into cobmeal for your milk cows. To increase their value, add to every peck of cobs a quart of meal or half gallon of bran to each mess for a cow, which should be either boiled or steamed into slop for your cows. The proportions we hereinafter name, with the addition of cut hay or straw, say a half bushel at each meal, will not only keep a cow in good condition, but if she be in milk will increase its quantity as well as improve its quality. A cow, besides these slop messes, should be night and morning served with long food, as hay, fodder, or straw in suitable quantities, say ten lbs. at each meal. If such course of treatment were to be observed towards these generous creatures there would be less falling off in their milking properties through the

winter. As to fault in short milking, we have never laid it to the cow, but to the neglect of her owner, for we have ever laid it down as a self-evident proposition, that he who expects a cow to give any considerable quantity of milk in winter, must provide her generously with succulent food, as no cow can secrete milk unless she receive such material as will enable her to form the delicious fluid which so delights the human palate and contributes so largely towards human sustenance. Corn Husks.—These, if cut and mixed with cow slops, will be found an excellent food in winter, and should be preserved for such purpose. Corn Stalks.—These, when cut into inch pieces and mixed with meal or bran and boiled or steamed, make not only a strong, but excellent food for milk cows. They should, therefore, be early cut, hauled in and preserved from the weather. A ton of stalks thus fed will be found equally as good as a ton of ordinary hay. Roots of all kinds.—If these are not already stored away, they should be taken up before being injured by the frost, and put away beyond the reach of that element. As few cellars keep roots well, it may, perhaps be best to bury them in the open air in piles of, say 50 bushels each. The spot selected should be a dry one—sand should be strewn between each layer, and when raised a few feet high, say four, the pile should be covered with earth from nine to ten inches thick, in a cone-like form, so as to cast off the water. Around each pile of roots drains should be formed, so as to prevent the water from settling around them. Milch Cows.—As we have already treated of these animals, in connection with corn-cobs, we will content ourselves with a general remark or two. Milch cows should be moderately warmly housed, and bedded, be regularly supplied with good succulent food thrice a day, receive fresh water as often, be curried daily, and salted at least twice a week. A mixture of equal parts of lime, finely sifted ashes and salt, will answer a better purpose than salt alone—and, as it is cheaper, should be preferred. As the pastures have doubtless become scant, the cows should be fed twice a day, night and morning, with such quantities of hay as will make up the deficiency of the pastures, it being best to be carried into winter quarters in good condition. All that we have said in connection with cows giving milk will hold good with regard to in-calf cows and heifers. Young stock of all kinds.—These should be housed under good warm sheds open to the south or east, and if bedded, so much the better—they should receive three feeds good hay or fodder and a small one of grain, a day—have access to a yard, be watered before each meal and salted twice a week. The currie-comb or a whisk of straw, if daily applied would add much to their cleanliness, health and comfort. Working Horses, Mules and Oxen.—These animals, as they contribute so largely towards the comforts and pleasures of the homestead, should receive kind treatment from their masters. They should be provided with comfortable stabling, well bedded stalls, be curried and rubbed down at least twice a day—have proper allowances of grain and hay, morning, noon, and night, be watered just before each meal, and have each an ounce of salt three times a week, or an equal quantity of a mixture of salt, finely sifted hickory ashes and lime—oyster-shell lime best. It sometimes happens that working horses and mules have difficulty in urinating. When this occurs, if 2 ozs. of dried yarrow be mixed in their feed two or three times in succession, a cure will generally be effected. Should the yarrow not, however, effect a cure, give the animal a bolus comprised of 1 oz. of castile soap and 2 drachms of sal-petre, two mornings in succession fasting. As a matter of economy, all grain fed to horses and other stock, should be chopt—it goes further by 25 per cent.—is more acceptable to the animals, induces them to take on fat better, is more conducive to the preservation of their strength, easier digested, and as a resulting consequence, more preservative of health. Sheep.—No one should undertake to keep a flock of sheep who does not provide them with good shedding for their winter quarters—straw for bedding, 3 lbs. of good hay, each, per day, of its equivalent in other food. The sheep should be allowed the use of a yard, be watered thrice a day, and have recourse to salt daily—pine boughs should be provided for them to browse upon weekly in the absence of these mix tar with their salt. Fattening Hogs.—When the mast and

nuts of your woods shall have been consumed, pen up your hogs to fatten; provide them good dry warm apartments in the pen to sleep in separate from the part you feed them in. When you first take them up, give each hog a tea-spoonful of flour of sulphur in a mess of meal daily, for a week. If you design to commence feeding with pumpkins, apples or roots, let them be cooked—they go farther and are better for the hogs. Thrice a day give them fresh water and once a week give them a drink of soap-suds during the first three weeks of their being penned up. Each pen should be provided with a ribbing post. Rotten wood, charcoal and ashes should be generally in the pen in a trough where the hogs could eat of it at pleasure. While you are engaged in fattening your hogs do not omit to furnish them with plenty of mould leaves and weeds to work up into manure for you, for a truth they are among the best of manufacturers of that article known. Twenty well sized hogs would convert half that number of loads of earth or mould into good fertilizing manure every ten days, and in that time mix it up more accurately than the best hand on your farm, and especially well would they perform that service if you were to straw grains of corn over the surface daily to induce them to use their snouts. As true economy consists in attending to small as well as large matters, no provident farmer should omit to attend as these hints, and the best and surest way to ensure their being attended to, is to personally see that they are done, as the master's presence is a great stimulator of fidelity. Picking and preserving Apples.—Pick your apples by hand. When gathered deposit them in an airy room to sweat. When they have gone through this process, wipe them with cloth, carefully pack them away in barrels, head them up, and place them in a dry cellar. Draining and Ditching.—If you have any marshy or wet grounds that you wish to render fit for tillage, you should improve the present month to make your ditches and drains. Cider-making.—Get through with your cider-making as speedily as possible, as the apples yield more juice now than they will a few weeks hence, and consequently will make more cider. See that your casks and barrels are thoroughly washed, and fumigated with a cloth dipped in melted brimstone. Apple Butter making.—As apple butter is a very agreeable sauce for the table, as well as an article of sale, attend to having a supply made for both purposes. Small as income from its sales may be, it will still be worth attending to; for, as the world is the aggregation of small particles, so are fortunes to be realized only by those who attend to little as well as large sources of wealth. Threshing out Grain.—Having first had your granary thoroughly cleaned out, by being scoured with hot ley, and dried and aired, go to work and have all your grain threshed out and stored away. At a period like this, when prices are up one week and down the next, every farmer should consider it to be his duty, to place himself in a position to avail himself of every rise in the price of his great staple products. Fall Ploughing.—As stiff clay are improved by being exposed to the action of frost, all such lands should have the advantage of fall and winter ploughing, but they never should be ploughed while in a wet state. The furrow slice should be lapped. Cow Sheds.—We have already reminded you of the advantage of keeping your cattle under good dry warm sheds and will now barely observe, that if you have not already erected them you should set about the work and complete them without delay. Cattle protected from the inclemency of the weather, can be subsisted upon one-fourth less food, so that interest, that great lever in human actions, comes in to aid humanity in her appeal in behalf of the poor beasts whom God has confided to your charge and keeping. We have read the human heart to but little purpose, if any man could sleep in his bed through a winter night's storm, we hope he to reflect that his stock were exposed to its pitiless pollings, as his reason would tell him that they felt the suffering as keenly as would he himself were he forced, like them, to endure the descending sleet and drifting snow. As Providence has, in his goodness, placed the beasts of the field within the control of man, in all christian duty he is bound in gratitude to treat them kindly and well for in no other way can he acquit himself the responsibilities of his stewardship. The gift was one of use and not of abuse. Fire-Wood.—Being ourself, a dear

lover of a good warm fire-side in winter, and anxious that all God's creatures shall participate in the same comfort as we do ourself, we feel particularly anxious that you have cut and hauled in as early as possible, a full supply of wood, not only for the great-house, but for the quarters also. The inconvenience of hauling through the bad roads of winter, will at once suggest the propriety of our advice, and, as we hope, spur you on to the performance of this necessary duty at the earliest possible period. Wagons, Carts and Gearing.—Examine these, have all necessary repairs made, in order that they may be ready when required for service. If you have not one already have a house erected to keep them in. Tools and Implements of Husbandry.—Every thing of this description, not in use, should be thoroughly examined, and such as may need it, should be repaired and put away under cover. For the Farmville Republican. Messrs. Editors:—As the period is approaching when the Tobacco Planters will begin to prepare their crops for market, a few suggestions as to the order and pricing may not be inappropriate. And first, I would premise these suggestions, by stating some facts which have an important bearing on the subject. It is pretty well ascertained, that there are now about 30,000 hhd. of the Virginia Lक्षण manufactured in the State.—Taking the average inspection to be 45,000 hhd., we have two thirds of the whole crop used by the manufacturers; and it is believed that the day is not very far distant when nearly the whole, if not the entire crop, will be worked up in the State. Another fact—Virginia Tobacco is going more and more every year out of use in the foreign markets, for the reason that Western Tobaccos are preferred. It is plain, therefore, that Virginia Tobacco Planters must look mainly to the home market, for a purchaser of their staple; and that it is important that the article should be suited to the tastes and wants of the purchaser. I would then suggest first, that all Tobacco from the best to the lowest grade, should be prized in undoubted keeping order, not hard order—and planters will understand the distinction I make between keeping and hard order. It is a very erroneous idea which has prevailed (in this State) among the planters for several years past, that manufacturers prefer Tobacco in soft order. This error has cost them in the sale of the last crop alone, thousands and tens of thousands of dollars. It is estimated by intelligent dealers that at least one-fourth of the crop just inspected was spoiled or more or less damaged by being prized by too soft. Manufacturers now use so much foreign matter in the process of manufacturing Tobacco, that they want to put every particle of ordering on it themselves, and when they use soft Tobacco at all, they must incur the expense of drying it before they can manufacture it. If Planters then want best price that the manufacturer can afford to pay, their Tobacco must be put up in safe keeping order. I would suggest again, that Tobacco should be lightly prized; a hog-head should not weigh at farthest more than 1400 or 1500 lbs. 1200 or 1300 lbs. would be preferred. The reason for this is plain; the leaf for use should be as unbroken and as perfect as possible; one who has not attended closely to the subject has very little idea of the labor and loss of weight incurred in pulling to pieces (or shaking out as the manufacturers call it) and manufacturing heavy prized, hard-struck Tobacco.—The manufacturer can afford to pay 25 to 50 cents per 100lbs. more for a light prized hhd. of the same quality than a heavy prized one. Some Planters prize heavy from the notion that it improves the appearance of their tobacco; others to save freight in getting it to market; but is a false calculation to save one dollar in the freight of a hhd., and lose four to eight dollars in its sale. The foregoing suggestions will apply equally to the putting up Tobacco for foreign shipment. Shippers when they pay a full price for tobacco, must have it at least in safe-keeping order. It is true that they do buy and ship Tobacco in soft, damaged, and even mouldy condition, but at a very low price, and planters will know, or might, to have learned by this time, for they have paid enough for the know

ledge, what it is to be "sold to the Dutch." These suggestions are offered by a manufacturer who has had long experience in the manipulation of Tobacco, and who has often suffered in his business for the want of material properly ordered and managed. If they shall be the means of preventing even one planter from ruining his crop by pricing it in unsafe order or from injuring it by pricing too heavily, he will be amply paid for the time occupied in writing this communication. PENCIL MARKS. Dr. Holmes, editor of the Maine Farmer, states that by washing pencil marks over with a solution of gun cotton in ether, they can be fixed so finely that India Rubber will not erase them. Spent Tan-Bark, a New-York paper says, may be employed as a manure. The substance can easily be dried, and converted into charcoal in a similar manner, as recommended for charring peat. It may then be mixed with night soil, answering both the purpose of drying and rendered fit for carriage, at the same time absorbing all the ammonia, &c. It may also be mixed with urine or with animal manure of any kind for similar purposes. Tan-bark, in an uncharred state, is of no immediate value as a manure, in consequence of the gallic and other acids it contains. The above extract, from an unknown, exchange, is something interesting to our farmers and it is correct, too. Unburned tan bark we know to be injurious to vegetation, but when the acid is driven off by heat, its nature is quite different. PORTABLE FLOUR MILLS. Under the head of "extraordinary invention," a New York paper notices the machine for grinding and bolting flour which was exhibited at the American Institute, recently held in that city. The writer says that "it is not much larger than the crown of a man's hat, will grind sixty bushels of wheat per day into first rate flour. The cost is about \$150, complete, with bolting apparatus." We have seen the machine in question, and while it is undoubtedly "very good for its size," we do not think it destined to effect a revolution in the old plans yet awhile. It is just the thing for an army, when plenty of grain can be had, and may prove useful to such farmers as are remote from mills;—but for ordinary cases, we do not think the machine extraordinary, especially as it has been before the public for a considerable length of time. NEW FRENCH DISCOVERY. The Polytechnic Review, has the following account of a new mode of welding metals which may possess interest for some readers:—Melt borax in an earthen vessel, adding to it one-tenth of sal-ammoniac; when these ingredients are properly fused and mixed, pour them out upon an iron plate, and let them cool. There is thus obtained a glassy matter to which is to be added an equal quantity of quick lime. The iron or steel which are to be soldered are first heated to redness; then this compound, first reduced to powder, is laid upon them—the pieces are then placed in the fire, taking care to heat them at a temperature far below that usually employed in welding; they are then withdrawn and hammered, and the surfaces will be found to be thus perfectly united. The discoverer of this says it never fails, and may also be applied to welding sheet iron tubes, &c. TO BOYS. Do not trouble the birds. Let them sing and fly without fear from you. Do not kill them, do not catch and imprison them. Let them go abroad in all the joyousness of their brief summer's life. If you wish for something to do in the spring days, dig a hole in some suitable place by the roadside, three or four feet across and a foot and a half deep; throw back part of the earth. Then go into the fields or woods, catch a wild tree, the prettiest you can find, and fasten its roots carefully in the cage that you have made for them, and your children's children, or the poor wayfarer's, a century hence, may thank you for the shade which you have provided. Is not this better than catching birds. The Asiatic Cholera has reached New York, and several have died in the hospital.

The Gold Room.—Letter from a Baltimorean.—We give some extended extracts in our columns to-day relative to the gold region of California, which is attracting great attention throughout the country. We have also been favored with the perusal of a letter from a young Baltimorean, dated San Francisco, Sept. 26. He says: "The gold fever is still raging here with all its violence, and to some purpose.—How it would astonish you to see the immense quantities that have been brought to this place from the Sacramento by the miners. I have seen it wasted by the five and ten dollars' worth in weighing—they don't seem to know the value of it. It can be bought for eight dollars per ounce, which is worth seventeen dollars in the States.—Start all the young men from Baltimore that are unemployed!" The same letter mentions the safe arrival of Mr. Wethered, of Baltimore, with a large stock of goods, on which he was making immense profits. Sun. A WATER SWINDLER.—The Cumberland Alleganians state that an Ohio drover, shortly after taking a rent in the cars for Cumberland, at the Baltimore depot, was accosted by a respectfully dressed gentleman, who asked of him the favor, to loan him seventy-five dollars, until he should get to Cumberland, when he would pay him eighty dollars, and feel ever indebted to him for the kindness. He stated that he was unexpectedly called on for the amount by a fellow who stood by, and on the drover refusing he tendered him a \$100 watch as security for the return of the money on their arrival at Cumberland, to which the drover assented, handing him over \$75.—On arriving at Cumberland the man was not to be found, and the watch was ascertained not to be worth \$5. THE FIELD OF BUENA VISTA. From the N. O. Bulletin of Nov. 21. We recently had exhibited to us the original of the celebrated letter from Gen. Taylor to Santa Anna, written on the field of Buena Vista, in reply to the summons of Santa Anna to surrender with his army. This document is in the form of a note, being on a folded half sheet of letter paper. It is in pencil, written by Major (now Colonel) Bliss, and signed by Gen. Taylor.—The writing is very legible and is in the regular open hand of Col. Bliss; and with the strongly marked signature of General Taylor. There is nothing either in the hole or the signature that indicates haste; but, on the contrary, judging from the general appearance of it, we should say that both the writer and the signer of it were "as calm as a summer's morning" when it was prepared. As Col. Bliss was in the city at the time we saw this note, we took occasion to inquire of him the circumstances under which it was written. He told us that he wrote it on the top of his baggage camp, placed on his knees, sitting on a bank of earth, Gen. Taylor dictating the tenor of it, and that the latter did not sign it as reported, on horseback, but that he was standing by the side of his horse, (Old Whitey), and laid the paper on the saddle, and signed it there with the same pencil with which he (Col. Bliss) wrote it. The gentleman who brought this document from Mexico came passenger in the steamer from Vera Cruz with Mr. Clifford, our Minister. He obtained it in the city of Mexico, and intends to have it elegantly framed for preservation, as he values it very highly. Though the letter is familiar to all our readers, we give the following verbatim copy from the original: "HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF OCCUPATION, Buena Vista, February 22, 1848. "Sir: In reply to your note of this date, summoning me to surrender my forces at discretion, I beg leave to say that I decline acceding to your request. "With high respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant. "Z. TAYLOR. "Major General U. S. A. Commanding. "To SENOR DON ANTONIO LOPEZ DE SANTA ANNA. "Commanding in chief, Encantada." The Baltimore Sun, and some of the Philadelphia papers publish a letter from a Mr. T. D. Claiborne, of Natchez, Mississippi, stating that one S. S. Boyd told him and a Mr. Bingham, that he (Boyd) on the 13th inst., had "spent some hours with Gen Taylor and that he was right on all the points, and, without speaking of the territories, she old gentleman distinctly and earnestly declared, that when the South attempted to interfere with the slave question he was for drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard." We have had so many fabricated reports of Gen. Taylor's private conversations that we put no faith in any of them. In the present case, whilst we have no doubt of Gen. Taylor's loyalty to the South, we place no confidence in the authenticity of the statement just quoted. Two beautiful silver goblets have been purchased in London, under the instruction of the Savannah Chamber of Commerce on posting \$50 and the other \$40. The former is to be given to the producer of "the most superior crop of up land cotton sold in Savannah, of the crop of 1848 &c." the other is to be given for "one of the best crops." Query: Where is the authority of the Chamber of Commerce "for most superior" being English?