

benefit of my brother farmers. In breaking up my land for last year's crop, I turned deep, being careful to throw up but little of the sub-soil, following, in each furrow, breaking deep without turning the sub-soil. This experiment was tried with only a part of the crop: the after cultivation was the same with the whole. The result was, that during the long drought of summer, which cut short at least a third of my other corn, the subsoiled portion remained green and uninjured—plainly demonstrating the great benefit of subsoil plowing. The reason why it does good I leave to the more learned to explain. My business, as a plain, practical man, is with facts, and this statement is given simply for the reason above stated. Experiments, showing the best method of cultivation in our own State, published in your paper, is what makes it more valuable to us than papers published in a different latitude and in the midst of a different people, operating under different institutions. Whilst there are certain great leading principles in the science of agriculture—such as the necessity of collecting and applying manure, hill-side ditching, thorough draining, close cultivation, &c.—which apply every where; the various details in the modes of carrying them out must depend upon the nature of the soil and climate, the labor to be applied, the crops produced, and other local circumstances. Home papers alone can be relied upon for much important information needed on these branches of agriculture. Hoping that others may be induced to furnish for your paper the results of their experience, I remain

Yours &c. B. L.

Harnett Co., Feb., 4, 1857.

TO DESTROY THE BARK LOUSE.

For the Arator.

The Country Gentleman states that a certain remedy for the bark louse is, using the common sal. soda, which may be had at any druggists for three cents a pound. Dissolve it in water, allowing one pound of the sal. soda to each gal-

lon of water. When well dissolved, apply it with an old white-wash brush to the limbs and trunk of the tree. It destroys all insects which harbor under the loose bark, and effectually kills the bark louse. Use it in spring and autumn when the trees are not in leaf, and its effects are astonishing in giving a new vitality to the tree. I beg leave to add, for the benefit of those who cannot conveniently get the soda, that a strong ley made of hickory ashes will produce similar effects. GARDENER.

IMPROVING OLD FIELDS.

For the Arator.

I was pleased, Mr. Editor, with your advice to Mr. Williams, in the January No., on the improvement of pine old fields. It accords with my experience on the subject, except as to the lime, which I have never used, though it is no doubt a valuable adjunct. I have found the best way to improve and bring such lands again into cultivation is, as you direct, first to cut down and pile up all the smaller growth and brush, and then take a good strong plow and forthwith turn under all the pine straw; immediately after which take the axe and cut down fore and aft all the trees, letting them lie one or two years to rot on the land. Then let the ground be cleared of all the grosser remains of the trees, which should be piled and burned in convenient heaps. This will prepare the way for the plow again, which should be used to break deep and turn under the trash. Peas are then sowed broadcast, at the rate of three pecks to a bushel per acre, and put in shallow with a small plow. As soon as the vines are beginning to bear well, turn them under, and sow wheat on them. By a proper alternation of crops, and the use of the pea fallow always for wheat, the land will keep up, and, you may depend upon it, it will pay. By the addition, occasionally, of wood ashes and a dose from the compost heaps, the land may be brought to surpass its original fertility. That, too, will pay. I have tried it. How many