

ties, each at the enormous salary of 5*l*. about half the statute labor was struck off, and 12 Commissioners were appointed at an annual salary of 10*l*. each, and an annual salary of 50*l*. to the gentleman who corresponded with them, and now let us admire the consequence. It was formerly thought that the road leading from Welsh's ferry to Tryon was about one of the stupidest roads that man could have planned. A Cow would have made one much better, it went in all directions but the right one, but it has been far surpassed by the late mathematicians. The old road from Prince-Town led over several hills and went in a north west direction, but in order to straighten this road and avoid the hills as well as to make a direct road to the Isthmus between Richmond and Bedeque Bays, it was deemed proper to go by the old road, north west to Bagnall's, and then to turn—not exactly round about—but at a right angle, namely, southwest from Bagnall's, sometimes inclining toward Bedeque and sometimes inclining toward no place at all, but a succession of hills infinitely more numerous and troublesome than the former road. Then there were new impassible roads from New London in various directions. Then it was found that in taking a due course from the North river to the Isthmus (the before mentioned Bagnall's house) was three or four miles out of the way, besides leading over the hills, which the wearied horses now pant over. There had been a plan designed and partly executed of a road leading from Bedeque river, over almost a dead level to the North river, but the progress of this road submitted to the Rams-horn-road already described was arrested, something has been done to it lately. Prince-Town itself is bedizened with roads like a mariner's compass—so is Darney.

I must break off for the present—but I have more roads in my view, particularly that from Poplar Island Bridge, and some bridges and Wharves.

Your  
obedient servant,  
RUB.

## AGRICULTURE.

### FARMERS WORK FOR SEPTEMBER.

The following valuable observations on harvesting grain, are from *Lorain's husbandry*. Custom has induced farmers generally to believe, that it is an improper and wasteful practice to cut either wheat or rye with the scythe and cradle. If the grain is neither lodged or entangled it may be cut as clean as with the scythe and cradle, as by the sickle. If it be properly gathered and bound, but little, if any, more loss will arise from gathering in this way. If the grain be cradled in proper time it shatters less, on the whole, than when it is reaped and secured in the usual way. It is readily granted that if grain be cradled and reaped at the same time, it shatters more by the former practice. It should be recollected however, that the very tardy progress of the sickle greatly increases the shattering, by procrastinating the harvest so long that the chaff opens, and much of the grain falls out. Whereas the rapid progress of the scythe and cradle cuts off the grain, before any material loss from shattering can take place, if the cultivator commences in time. No evil, but much good, will arise from beginning early. This not only prevents shattering, but also the risk of encountering the various accidents to which the crop is exposed by useless delay. Some farmers of the first respectability assert, that

practice and observation have convinced them, that the grain, and also the flour, are best when wheat is cut much before the usual time. This however, does not accord with my practice. The middle course, between the extremes of cutting very early, or at the usual time, will be found the best; except when mildew occurs. In that case, wheat should be immediately cut after it can be determined that the disease is severe. If the crop is only slightly affected, it is far better to let it stand until the grain be fit to cut.

Many judicious, and well attested experiments determine, that when wheat is badly injured by mildew, the grain gets no better, if it be suffered to stand. That if it be cut off immediately after the injury is seen, the grain actually derives very considerable advantage from the sap contained in the straw.

Bad graders, and bad reapers, destroy much grain: infinitely more, however, is lost by those who could perform either well. If harvest was not considered, as the holidays too generally are, a time for drinking to excess. This renders many incapable of doing anything properly. Others, who are not quite so far gone, are disposed to run races a part of the day, and spend the rest of it in drinking under the shade, or in quarrelling and fighting.

Some of the best labouring part of the community are at this season of the year, more like drunken savages than members of a civilized community. This evil does not spring either from benevolence or hospitality in their employers. Avarice seems to have been the first moving cause of this enormity. In direct opposition to the laws of God, and the reason of man, this contemptible, selfish principle, induced many to outbid their neighbours by a better plentiful supply of ardent spirits.

If those farmers had known their own interest, or wished to promote the interest, and rational happiness of those employed by them, or to act as men professing Christianity should, or, indeed, as an infidel would act, if he were not blinded by a false estimate of self interest, this shocking practice would not have been introduced.

Every farmer who wishes to promote the interest of agriculture, should set his face against it, and in lieu of whiskey, &c. pay an equivalent in money. I have never found it difficult to procure either in the back-woods, or elsewhere, as full a supply of workmen as my neighbours, who gave them as much ardent spirit as they would drink, although they got none of this from me. After the harvest was over, it was clearly seen, that the workmen was far better satisfied with receiving an equivalent in money, in place of injuring their health by drinking ardent spirits to the amount of it. It is not, however, in my practice only, that the beneficial efforts of not allowing workmen either in harvest, or at any other time, intoxicating liquors appear. There are many farmers who would sooner suffer their grain to rot on the ground, than sanction this enormity.

Now, it is very observable, that these men never suffer by this arrangement; on the contrary, their fields are cleaner reaped, and with much less trouble and expense. Why then, is this so disgraceful practice, of injuring the morals, health, reputation, and circumstances of neighbouring abandoned? especially, as in doing this, we also injure ourselves.

### ANECDOTES OF SHEEP, BY THE ETRICK SHEPHERD.

The Sheep has scarcely any marked charac-

ter save that of natural affection, of which it possesses in a great share. It is otherwise a stupid, indifferent animal, having few wants and fewer expedients. The old black faced, or forest breed, have far more powerful capabilities than any of the finer breeds that have been introduced into Scotland, and therefore the few anecdotes that I have to relate shall be confined to them.

I have heard of sheep returning from Yorkshire to the Highlands. This is certain, that when one, or a few sheep, get away from the rest of their acquaintances, they return homeward with great eagerness and perseverance. I have lived beside a drove road the better part of my life, and many stragglers have I seen bending their steps northward in the spring of the year. A shepherd rarely sees these journeyers twice. If he sees them and stops them in the morning, they are gone long before night; and if he sees them at night, they will be gone some miles before morning. This strong attachment to the place of their nativity is much more predominant in our aboriginal breed, than in any of the other kinds with which I am acquainted.

A shepherd in Blackhouse bought a few sheep from another in Crawmel, about ten miles distant. In the spring following, one of the ewes went back to her native place, and he wanted to know what I had called her name. On a certain day about the beginning of July following, the shepherd went and brought home his ewe and lamb—took the fleece from the ewe, and kept the lamb for one of his stock. The lamb lived and thrived, and never offered to leave home, but when three years of age, and about to have her first lamb she vanished; and the morning after the Crawmel shepherd, in going his rounds found her with a new yearned lamb in the very gear of the Crawmel Craig, where she was lambed herself. She remained there till the first week of July, the time when she was brought a lamb herself, and then she came home with hers of her own accord; and this custom she continued annually with the greatest punctuality as long as she lived. At length her lambs when they came of age, began the same practice, and the shepherd was obliged to dispose of the whole breed.

But with regard to their natural affection, the instances that might be mentioned are without number, stupid and actionless creatures as they are. When one loses its sight in a flock of short sheep it is rarely abandoned to itself in that hapless and helpless state. Some one always attaches itself to it, and by bleating calls it back from the precipice, the lake, the pool, and all dangers whatever.

There is another mark of provision of nature with regard to these animals, which is, that the more inhospitable the land is on which they feed, the greater their kindness and attention to their young. I once heard two years on a wild and bare farm, called *W*ilensie, on the border of Mid Lothian, and of all the sheep I ever saw, these were the kindest and most affectionate to their young. I was often deeply affected at seeing which I witnessed them. *W* had one very hard winter, so that our sheep grew lean in the spring, and the *thawter* (*l*), (a sort of paralytic affection) came among them, and carried off a number. Often have I seen these poor victims, when fallen down to rise no more, even when unable to lift their heads from the ground, holding up the leg, to invite the starving lamb to the miserable pittance that the udder still could supply. I had never seen a sulkier, more painfully affecting.

It is well known that a lamb that starts with shepherds, when a lamb dies, if the mother have sufficiency of milk, to bring her in and