

its putrefaction or rotting it must be kept in large heaps: Let any one spread new dung over the ground, and in a week's time, if the weather is dry, it will look little better than dry straw; he will now find it has lost more than half its weight, and with that a large proportion of its real riches. In this state I have often found it in hills of potatoes in a dry season, where it manifestly did it more hurt than good, by keeping the roots from the moist earth: If after this it rots, yet it can never recover that which it has lost by its rich moisture being rarified and evaporated by the sun. It should therefore be suffered to lie in some convenient place in a body together; by which means its moisture is preserved; a suitable degree of heat generated, and a universal putrefaction takes place, turning every part of it into proper manure or food for vegetables: For in its crude state it can scarcely be called a manure, but only something out of which manure may be made, because there is no part of it but what must be dissolved by putrefaction before it can yield much vegetable food; hence it comes to pass that if the season proves wet soon after it is used it does some good, as it affords a little nourishment, by being putrefied from the wetness of the season; but should the season prove dry, no putrefaction can take place; so, that of course, it affords no nourishment to vegetables, but does real hurt by keeping the ground too open and hollow in the hills where it is put. Yard dung, then, should never be used till it has been in a proper situation for fermentation and putrefaction one year at least; by this means the seeds of grass, weeds or noxious plants, will mostly perish, and the dung, by its putrefaction, be stored with great quantities of proper food for vegetables, possessing those qualities which tend to meliorate and enrich the land. To accomplish this plan, it should, in the spring, be put into the place where it is intended the general compost heap should be made. For this purpose a hollow place should be chosen; and if it cannot otherwise be had, it should be dug large enough to hold the quantity of manure intended to be made. If a place can be taken so situated as to receive the wash of the dwelling-house, cow yard, hog sty, &c. so much the better. It must be clayed all over its bottom and sides. Drains must be cut from the lowest part of the cow yard and hog sty into the place prepared to receive the Compost, so that whatsoever is washed out of them by rains may be carried directly into the Compost heap. All kinds of weeds from the sides of fields, where they often do much hurt, by shading and drawing the nourishment from plants that grow near them, may be pulled and thrown in; and in hoeing where the land is weedy, small children might often be employed to good advantage, in gathering up the weeds after the hoers, and throwing them in heaps; by which they would be prevented from taking

root again, the land would lie clean, and cart loads might in that way be gathered. Sprouts also pulled from the stubs in new ground when they are in a succulent state, before they grow woody or hard (which by the way is the best time to sprout new ground) may be thrown in heaps and carted in: Rock weed, kelp, and all sorts of sea weed or grass, may be carried in great quantities, where they can be had; garbage of fish, hair, blood, bones, woollen rags, oyster shells, muscles, and every kind of animal substance, are excellent, and capable of making four times their own weight of good manure; ashes, such as are made by burning bushes, may all be thrown in, and it is better to gather some of the earth with them, than to leave any of the ashes, as the top of the earth in those places is often almost as much impregnated with salts as the ashes themselves; ashes that have been leached are also good; the dung in the cow yard should be removed every morning into a heap by the side of the yard; by this means the yard is kept clean, and the dung is kept from drying, and as often as there is enough may be carted to the general heap. If the farmer has not the conveniency of a hog pasture, but is obliged to keep his hogs in a sty, he will find it for his interest to throw in great quantities of green weeds, grass, &c. as it will save more costly feeding, and in this case the sty should be often cleared, and all its contents put in the general heap. To a compost heap made of such materials, considerable of earth may be added; but then it should be well chosen; any place where the wash of a road or street is brought to settle is excellent; and mud may often be taken from settling places in a road, and dry earth put in its place, to the great advantage both of the road and him who takes it; half a hundred loads of good loam, and even more, where there is a large yard and many cattle, may be carried into a cow yard in the spring of the year, and be wholly carried to the compost heap by the fall, taking off the top at several different times. In Holland, and some parts of Germany, they are at great pains to save the urine of their cattle for manure, and find it of considerable consequence; by the above method it is all effectually preserved, which, together with the hot steam and perspiration of their bodies whilst lying upon the loam, so far enrich it as to render it a very valuable addition to the compost heap. The compost should be turned up from the bottom once or twice, in a summer, which will greatly forward its fermentation and putrefaction; and, towards the fall, when the seed of weeds and grass begin to be ripe, it is best to move the compost all to one end, that such rubbish as abounds with ripe seeds may be put by itself, and lie round to another year. At the fall, when the crops come in, considerable additions may be made by carrying in all the vines, stalks, &c. of every kind of vegetable from the garden;

also potatoe tops and turnep tops, if not wanted for cattle; these last, make a manure of a very excellent kind; all the chaff from the several kinds of grain that may be raised—every kind of damaged or rotten straw or hay, or old stack bottoms, &c. may come in, in the course of the year, with every thing that is capable of a quick putrefaction,

Such as can afford it will find their account in having a shed built over their compost heap, yet it must be open and exposed to the air on all sides, for by such exposure not only the putrid fermentation will be forwarded, but much will be drawn from the air, especially if there be any ashes in the heap, which will greatly increase the richness of the compost; yet a covering at the top will be very necessary, otherwise the rains will not only greatly check the fermentation by too often cooling it; but will probably, when they come plentifully, cause it to overflow its banks, and carry off the rich juices of the compost; also, without such a shed it might sustain damage by having its subtile and volatile parts evaporated by the sun. I have indeed seen compost heaps without clay at the bottom, or a shed at the top; but that much is lost from such a heap by all its washings in the course of the year, is too manifest to need any thing said upon it. It is true that in this way of putting up all his new dung into the compost heap, the farmer must go a year without manure, if he has not that which is old and good by him; but when once he has his compost heap fit for use, after that he has his manure as regularly every year as those who follow the pernicious practice of wasting their new dung, (I can call it nothing better, for it often does hurt) and he who follows the above method, or something like it, will soon find, that from one acre of land, well manured, he can raise more than he can from two without manure, so that one half his labour will be saved; the labour and pains that he has been at in making manure, will be returned with ample increase into his barn and stores, and his farm at the same time increasing in riches.

Those who have a good stock of cattle, hogs, &c. may in some such way as above, increase their manure to almost any quantity they shall need. And such as have no cattle (and there are doubtless some such among our new settlers) may, in the above way, make considerable manure in the course of the year, from the wash of the house only; and such manure is good, and will produce cucumbers, peas, beans, &c. quicker than good yard dung.—To conclude, the more any one attends to the affair of manuring his farm, the easier and more elegantly it will support him; whilst without that, upon such land and in such a climate as we have in this country, an industrious man, after a course of years, may find that all his labour hath been in vain.

A F A R M E R.