

## THE FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

## ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF WEEDS.

Plants that grow naturally, among a crop that has been sown, may be regarded as weeds, or, in other words, as enemies to the crop that is cultivated. The destruction of weeds, therefore, must be considered as one of the most important branches of the agricultural art; for if it be neglected, or even slovenly performed, one third, or one half of a fair crop, may only be obtained even from the very best soils. Besides, it merits consideration that if weeds are suffered to exist, the full advantages of manuring land, and many other improvements, can only be but partially reaped. None is this; for the mixture of weeds in the soil, prevents the crop from receiving the beneficial influence of the air; augments the risks at harvest, (for a crop that is clean, may be ready for the stack-yard in much less time than is required to harvest it, when encumbered with weeds); and the seeds of these intruders, deteriorate the quality of the grain. Notwithstanding all the injuries these sustained, how many are there, who hardly ever attempt to remove weeds in an effectual manner? This negligence is more to be blamed, because, were farmers at the trouble of collecting all sorts of weeds, before they have formed their seeds and of mixing them with rich earth, they would soon be reduced into a soft pulpy mass, and in this way a pernicious nuisance might be converted into a valuable manure.

Various experiments have been tried, to ascertain the positive advantage derived from carefully weeding one part of a field, and leaving another part undone; among these, the following, made with peculiar accuracy, may be safely relied on.

1. *Wheat*.—Seven acres of light gravelly land were fallowed, and sown broad-cast; one acre was measured off, and not a weed was pulled out of it; the other six were carefully weeded. The unweeded acre produced 18 bushels; the six-weeded acres, 135 bushels, or 22 1/2 per acre, which is 4 1/2 bushels, or 1/4 more produce in favour of weeding.

2. *Barley*.—A six-acre field was sown with arley, in fine tilth, and well manured. The seeding owing to a great abundance of charlock, cost 12s. per acre. The produce of an unweeded acre was only 13 bushels; of the weeded, 28s. Difference in favour of weeding, 15 bushels per acre, besides the land being so much cleaner for succeeding crops.

3. *Oats*.—Six acres sown with oats, one acre ploughed but once, and unmanured, produce only 17 bushels. Another six acres ploughed three times, manured and weeded, produced 37 bushels per acre. This experiment proves, that the more regular good management, and will pay for it as well as other crops. The bushels of the increased produce may be fairly attributed to the weeding; and the other ten to the manure.

The importance of weeding, both to the individual and to the public is such, that it ought to be enforced by law. At any rate, a regulation of police, for fining those who harbor weeds, the seeds of which may be blown into their neighbour's ground, is a just and salutary principle. In England, the petty constable might be required, by precept from the high constable, to give in presentiments to the Quarter Sessions, containing a list of all persons who suffered weeds to run to seed in their hedges or lands, such presentiments to be particularly specified to the court. Those referring to the coltsfoot, to be given in at the

Lady-day sessions; and those referring to thistles, ragweed, &c., to be given in at the Midsummer sessions. An order of court might then be made, for the immediate removal of such nuisances, and if not complied with, the offender should be fined a sum not exceeding five pounds, one half to the informer, and the other half to go for the relief of the poor.

It, in consequence of such a system being enforced, 4 1/2 bushels of wheat; 15 do. of barley; 10 do. of oats additional, were raised in all the fields in the kingdom, whose crops are injured by weeds, what benefits might not be the result? Indeed if such a plan were to take place, and if the overseers were compelled, by an express statute, to employ the poor, in the destruction of weeds, England might, in process of time, become as free from that nuisance, as China or Japan; and the farmers would soon find, that however anxious they may be, to have their lands *tithed*, free, yet to have them weeded free, is of still greater importance.

On the whole, keeping his land in a clean state ought to be a principle object with every farmer, and if this be not carefully attended to, he may rest assured of paying dearly for his neglect. But the losses which he suffers, do not remedy the injury which the public sustains from his slovenly conduct. The regulations, therefore, which have been suggested, may be considered as both expedient and necessary, for were they adopted, it is evident, that many of the evils which would be removed, and the wealth and agriculture resources of the nation, materially augmented. — *Sinclair's Code of Agriculture.*

*Improvement of the breed of Horses in France.*—The Duke de Guiche has lately published a very interesting paper on the improvement of the breed of horses, in which he proposes to confine them to two distinct classes; one, of light horses, to be obtained by crossing with English horses and Arabian mares, which class would include all the best carriage, coach, and hackney, and all those employed in post work and light agriculture. In the second class he includes waggon-horses, horses for heavy agriculture work, and all horses for slow and heavy draught. He proposes to establish for each of the two classes a number of haras, (studs) proportioned to the extent of the respective demand. The Duke advances many sensible arguments in favour of his plan, and proves that, as the soil and climate of France are decidedly favourable to the breeding of horses, there is no reason why, with judicious crossing, they should not be quite as good as those of Great Britain. The plan has been taken up warmly by the French government, and it is expressed that it will be carried into almost immediate execution. — *Literary Gazette.*

*Stall Feeding.*—One of the quickest and most certain methods of fattening cattle in the stall, is by feeding them with bran and linseed oil mixed, the proportion two pecks of bran a day divided into three feeds; and half a pint of oil to each feed, mixed well for small cattle; the proportion to be increased for large. — *Lambert's Treatise on Farming.*

*Breeding Live Stock.*—Avoid consanguinity and breeding from the same family, or what is commonly termed breeding *in-and-in*, as such will, if persevered in prove highly injurious; you must therefore procure your males from those having a similar breed but of different blood from your own. A skillful breeder will not use the tups bred on his own farm,

although superior to any he can procure; and those possessed of the best stock, both of the short and long horned cattle, two or three separate lines of blood, avoid consanguinity; but a crossing with different breeds will generally disappoint when prolonged in the line, each breed in its kind should be kept distinct. — *Ibid.*

*To prevent Milk from getting sour.*—To prevent milk from turning sour and curdling as it is so apt to do in the heat of summer, the milkmen of Paris add a small quantity of sub-carbonate of potash or soda, which saturating the acetic acid as it forms, prevents the fermentation, separation of curds, and some of them practice this with so much success as to gain the reputation of selling milk that *never turns*. Often when coagulation has taken place they restore the fluidity by a greater or less addition of one or the other of the fixed alkalies. The acetate which is thus formed has no injurious effects, and, besides, milk contains naturally a small quantity of acetate, but not an atom of really a carbonated alkali.

It is often asserted, by farmers themselves, that nothing can be made by agriculture. That this numerous and respectable portion of our citizens, taken as a whole, do in fact take little or nothing more than a bare support for themselves and families, cannot be denied. But this does not prove the incapability of their business being made lucrative when properly conducted. Its unprofitableness there is reason to believe is to be attributed principally to an injudicious and mistaken policy in conducting it, or to a carelessness and inattention in cultivating it. Among the capital errors of our practical farmers may be ranked a disregard to manuring and tilling their land sufficiently. Although much has already been said on this subject, yet it is one that cannot be too often brought in view so long as the present system is pursued. Many of our farmers attempt to improve their land, but they do not attend advantageously. If they would expend all their labor and manure on one third, or at most one half the quantity of land they now do, they would in most instances obtain twenty-five or fifty per cent more produce; and the danger of a total failure in their crops greatly lessened.

DUBLIN, August 19.

## TITHES—HARVEST WORK—COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

Last Tuesday a singular scene occurred at Jerpoint, in this county, the seat of William H. Hunt, Esq. one of the Jurors favourable to the acquittal of the Carrickschaugh prisoners, he is also a county Magistrate. A large field of wheat, containing 40 acres, had become fully ripe, and his neighbours from the surrounding parishes of Knocktopher, Ballyhale, Carrickschaugh, Hugginstown, Cashill, Knockmayland, &c., assembled, to cut it down for him. The Carrickschaugh men mustered 1,300 reaping hooks, and were allowed the honor of marching first into the field, headed by Mr. Conway, of Ballyhale, who read an appropriate address to Mr. Hunt, expressive of their admiration of the sense of impartial justice by which he was distinguished, and their conviction that his liberal sentiments concerning that odious and grievous oppression, the tithes, accorded with those of millions of the people of Ireland. To this Mr. Hunt made a suitable reply. A poetical address was presented to Mrs. Hunt, who gratefully responded, and