

Poetry.

THE RAISING OF CORN.

BY J. C. WHITTIER.

The most important crop we farmers raise, Unless 'tis grass, is Indian corn, or maize; Varieties of which are found to grow, From Canada and Maine, to Mexico; From over Atlantic's stormy billows roar, To mild Pacific's rich and peaceful shore, In every section of our favored land, The rows of corn like ranks of soldiers stand.

With care 'twill thrive in almost any spot, Unless 'tis very cold or very hot; 'Tis true it grows the largest South and West, And yet the northern frontiers raise the best; At least, 'tis best for making bread, Or basty puddings, Johnny cakes instead; 'Twill always fetch or bring a little more At market, mill, or at the farmers' door, But here upon New-England's sterile soil, It takes more care and money, time and toil; So much indeed of each, a man maintains, That by his corn alone he nothing gains. Another man may just as truly say, His corn will more than all expenses pay. They both the art of farming understand, But cultivate a different kind of land; And this accounts, in part, for different

Which men pursue in cultivating maize; For some in Autumn plow their planting ground, Because, they say, 'tis swarded hard or bound-- In other words, our land is strong and tough, We fear 'twill not get pulverized enough, Unless we bring the clayey stratum where 'Twill undergo the action of the air, The old, or fine manure, in summer made, Is heaped upon the field, or laid, And in the spring, they harrow well and spread The fresh manure from cellar, yard or shed, And ere its strength by sun or rain is lost, The ground is plowed a second time, or crost.

Again 'tis harrowed too, but lightly now, Then marked or furrowed out, with horse and plow, From East to West, three feet or more, From North to South, six inches less than four, And now, the cart with old manure they fill, And put a shove! full of its bill; 'Twill give the corn a start and make it stout, And what was spread will help to fill it out.

The corn for seed was gathered in the field, Or else from stalks of more than usual yield, They only use the middle of the ear-- The reason why is very plain and clear, Five kernels in a hill they plant or drop, Then cover well and press upon the soil, Before the corn is up, the field is tilled, About the only thing that crows will mind; They're not so much for other's rights or law; They bulldoze like the men of merely straw, But, like some others take good care to shun The next men, who chance to have a gun, The dark green corn, in rows will soon be seen, And then, with plough and hoe, they weed it clean, And at the time, the broad foundations lay, On which to build their hills, some future day.

The work of building up their soon renew And every hill is raised an inch or two; And ere it tassels out, or just before, 'Tis time to hay, they add a little more. They don't believe the crop of corn is hurt By hoeing up a good supply of dirt; Each time they have a set of braces start, Which help sustain the stalks erect in part, But now they lay aside the plough and hoe, And only watch the corn to see it grow; And when the tops begin to turn or die, They're cut and stacked, or hung in barns to dry. The stalks are out and carted in, when dead, The ears are husked and in the garner spread; Their recompense for toil they now behold, A sight as rich as California gold! Most farmers here, the course described pursue, While others think another mode will do, They're not so much for other's rights or law; The old and fresh manure they harrow in, And think it best, instead of making hills, To keep the surface flat and plant in drills; And when the corn as glazed begins to look, 'Tis cut and left to ripen on the stock, In places where the farmer does not heed The stalks, on which their Winter's stock is fed, They merely pluck the soundest ears, as best, And let their "longfaced gentry" have the rest; They undermine the stalks and let them fall And thus the greedy ploughmen fill all.

We might go on and mention other ways, Which some adopt, and recommend, or praise; But as 'tis only universal rules, Which meet the wants of our common schools, So here, in this broad land, no special plan For raising corn, will do for every man; And what conclusion shall we draw from hence? That all must exercise their common sense! [Boston Cultivator.]

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