THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1867.

Rural Economy.

ENRICH THE SOIL.

To gather up the fragments that nothing be lost; to collect together and use for manure all the waste animal and vegetable matter that is no longer directly serviceable to man, should be the object of every farmer who wishes to reap a plenteous harvest, and at the same time to improve the soil he cultivates. And yet in visiting many farms it is not unusual to see ashes and rubbish scattered about, or thrown into heaps, often the accumulation of several years. A spot of land bare of vegetation marks where barrels were emptied of their brine; while woolen rags, bristles, hair and old bones disfigure what should be a well kept yard.

On visiting some back lot we shall find mounds, where the carcasses of animals that have died in the service, sheep, poultry and swine are buried too deep to be of use to the growing vegetable. Too many farmers seem to thing if they each spring cart out the manure from the farm yard and stable, that they restore to the land what was taken away in the crop the previous year; but never was there a greater mistake. The manure is what the animal rejects. The most valuable portion of the soil, that which is assimilated first by the plant, and afterwards by the animal, is found not in the excrements of the animal, but in the animal itself. In this are found all the elements for the highest organisms. Hence we see the value of the blood, hair,

flesh and bones of animals; they restore to the soil not only the materials for producing the vegetable, but they constitute that portion of the vegetable which builds up animal tissue. Not only is the yield of grass and turnips greater when grown on soil manured with animal refuse, but an equal amount of it is more nutritious than that grown on land which is not so treated.

It is true that the amount of animal refuse which the farmer can readily obtain, is very small when compared to the mass of decayed vegetable matter that is under his control. But if he will industriously save what he has, he will add to his soil substances which make up in value what they lack in amount. Hair, bristles, woolen rags and blood have

only to be placed on the ground and plowed under. The parings of the hoofs of horses constitute a most valuable manure, and can always be obtained at no greater expense than the cost of gathering them up. The same is true of the refuse parings of tan-yards and currier's shops.

It requires more labor to render bones immediately valuable to the crop, than it does the other portions of the animal, for if ap-plied whole, their decomposition is very slow. They require to be pulverized, and the finer the powder, the better the results. As a top-dressing for grain, grass, or turnips, there is nothing that equals this kind of fertilizer.

Ashes are in one sense the bones of plants; they contain all the earthy matter, and when the wood is imperfectly burned, there is congrowth, is always attended by the most labor; the work must be done in the sum-happy results. All vegetable matter, and mer, when other farming operations demand

sent the cotton as looking healthy, but as two weeks later than usual, owing to the cool weather. This had recently changed, and it was now thought cotton would soon recover, and mature in July, in time to be out of reach of worms and frost. If so, it will be an average crop on the lands culti-vated, which was of less breadth than usual,

sorely needed. It should be accepted with devout gratitude, and a due acknowledgment of its divine origin.-Evangelist.

UNFRUITFUL ORCHARDS.

We know of many young apple orchards in Western New York which are of sufficient age, and the trees are of sufficient size, to bear renumerative crops of fruit; yet the owners and cultivators of them, as yet, have received no adequate return for the labor and expense incurred in establishing them. What is the reason? Is it because of the varieties cultivated are of unfruitful habit until then arrive at mature age? or has the growth of wood, induced by the fertility of the soil and the system of pruning adopt-ed, been so great as to preclude the bearing of fruit? Doubtless to some extent both reasons are good, but chiefly, we think, the excessive growth of wood preludes the at-

tainment of fair crops of fruit. Our cultivators, as a class, practice but little that system of pruning which is adapted to bring a tree into a bearing condition. They are usually content when the orchard makes a good growth of wood and apples healthy and vigorous, thinking that in the future the reward will come in proportion to the amount of wood grown. If the trees are large, they must at some time produce large quantities of fruit. Perhaps so; but it is weary waiting, and "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," and we think a majority would much prefer moderate crops of fruit as soon as the trees attain sufficient size to support their weight without injury; and we think, also, if such crops can be grown, it will be better for the interest of the fruit grower, and no detriment to his orchard. We do not advise over-cropping in any case, if it is possible, but reasonably and moderate production.

Now, it is a fact that apple trees may be forced into moderate bearing at a very early stage of their growth, by pruning, and we advise owners of thrifty young orchards to avail themselves of this art, and cause them to produce some fruit. Prune in the winter for wood and in the summer for fruit," is an axiom, and let us act upon it. Pinch the growing shoots on a tree in the summer, bend down the branches, thrust down the sharp spade into the ground and sever the roots-in short aim to check the circulation of sap, making the growth less vigorous, and fruit buds and spurs will be produced and fruit will grow. Aim at the siderable vegetable substance in the form of life of the tree, and straightway it produces charcoal. There use as a top-dressing for fruit and seed that its kind may not perish grass and corn in the earlier stages of its from the earth. This is care, and not hard

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vated, which was of less breadth than usual, owing to floods and want of capital to sup-ply laborers. The prospect for fruits of all kinds is equally promising. The effect of such abundant harvests upon the finances of the country will be very great and beneficial; and the relief it will bring to all classes of laborers and producers the stime when it was more

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