

# THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA.

## Farmer's Department.

### Renovating Grass Lands.

An Allegheny correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker*, furnishes an interesting statement of his experiments in renovating meadows where dairying is the principle business, and where it is desirable to keep the land most of the time in grass. Meadow, there become greatly diminished in their crops, in a few years. He tried harrowing the surface, top-dressing with manure, reseeding, plastering, applying ashes, etc., with little effect. He harrowed one-half of an eight-year meadow after manuring it in spring, and had an increase of twenty-five pounds of hay per acre. Sheep manure, applied in fall on a new meadow, gave an increase of a hundred pounds per acre. Discarding these modes, he next turned the soil with a good plow, and resowed to clover and timothy after the first crop; what this crop was he does not state. He has thus renovated seventy acres, rolling in the seed. An old twelve-acre meadow yielded but six loads after renovating sixteen, the first crop was twenty-four. In four years, he plowed again, seeded with four and a half loads of manure per acre and harvested fifty bushels of oats per acre, and the next year forty-one loads of hay from the twelve acres.

It will be seen that no manuring was necessary. The application made in spring in a former experiment, resulted as we should expect, especially if timely and unevenly applied at that season of the year. Autumn manuring, uniformly made, is much efficient. But it must be admitted that inverting the sod on dry uplands, is the most perfect way of restoring a heavy crop, a full amount of grass seed being used. Manure must be applied freely, if only a single year is taken for this renewal; but if two or more years can be added, so as to turn in a heavy crop of clover in a short rotation, there is no question that a great improvement would be made. It must not be forgotten that one great objection to plowing and re-seeding grass fields, is owing to a sparing use of grass seed, and an imperfect preparation of the surface for it. Now, thickly, say a peck or more per acre on a smooth, mellow, finely top-dressed surface, and a dense, heavy growth of grass will be the result, much better in quality than that afforded by large, coarse, thinly scattered stems. Some successful graziers inform us that they have succeeded in restoring meadows after cutting four or five crops of grass from them, by pasture them with cattle for two or three years, taking care never to graze them short, but allowing a growth of grass at least eight or ten inches high, and especially in autumn and on the approaching of winter.

**AMONG THE IMPLEMENTS needed on every farm is a good supply of ladders. A long ladder is always necessary to reach the top of a building in case of fire. A shorter ladder for rods and the walls of buildings is also necessary. A ladder five or six feet in height is often convenient for fruit trees. One can hardly do without these three ladders; but there is one other ladder which is very convenient in gathering buildings, and especially in gathering fruit. It consists of two ladders put together like the rafters of a building. These may have a small platform on the top which any ordinary mechanic can make, on which a person can stand for the purpose of gathering fruit, grafting, or any other kind of work requiring such an elevation. Now let a light piece of wood be attached by a pin to each side of the platform, so as to keep the ladder from falling sideways, and it is complete. Such a ladder will last a great many years and do as much real use as any other article on the farm, as a labor-saving contrivance. We believe that whoever makes such an implement will in the same situation as the man who after twenty years of farming bought a grindstone, and was amazed why he had never had one before.**

We may safely set it down as a good rule, that in farming it is good economy to provide ourselves with such tools as will lessen our labor in the various operations of the farm. Who would think now a days of raising two hundred bushels of corn and then shelling it out on a fire shovel as our fathers and farm'rs' boys often did half a century ago. A corn-sheller can be bought for a few dollars, that will perform the labor of several men by the old mode of operation, and a man would save his time by working out at a day's labor sawing wood till he had acquired money enough to buy one. Ingenious farmers and mechanics are constantly at work devising new and improved methods of carrying on our farming operations, and we always hail with pleasure every real improvement.—*Maine Farmer.*

**Frozen Pumpkins for Milk Cows.**

We had always supposed that frozen pumpkins were of little value for any thing, but we have come to a different conclusion. Having a surplus at the commencement of the winter, we threw a load of them in the ice house when they kept frozen solid. To use them at feed while fresh we think them of no value, and perhaps injurious, but our plan has been to carry two of them into the kitchen, place them (chopped up, is better) in an old butter driskin, and then gradually thaw till the next day when we pour on some hot water, making a generous supply of warm drink and food with very little trouble. The raw cow partakes of one such a meal a day the result thus far has been nearly, or quite double the quantity of milk we had reason to expect. Ice cold water and food in the stomach is not well calculated to increase the flow of milk. The supply of extra food for milch cows the year round at cheap rate, must really improve the attention of the farmers more than heretofore.—*Maine Farmer.*

**No More Dish Washing.**—A Michigan genius has invented a machine that will wash a dinner's dishes in double quick time. All the kitchen maid has to do is to drop the plates into a machine, edgewise, give two turns of a crank, and then pull out the clean article as it rises from the sudsy bath, without the least danger of scalding her fingers or getting more than the tips of them wet.

Why cannot a cook eat her own apron? Because it goes against her stomach.

**Love not books with the eyes, but with the heart.**

## for the Young Folks.

### The Bald Knight.

A CERTAIN Knight growing old, his hair fell off, and he became bald; to hide which imperfection, he wore a periwig. But as he was riding out with some others a hunting, a sudden gust of wind blew off the periwig, and exposed his bald pate. The company could not forbear laughing at the accident; and he himself laughed as loud as anybody, saying, "How was it to be expected that I should keep strange hair upon my head, when my own would not stay there?"

### The Beside Travellers.

AS some Travellers were making their way along the seashore, they came to a high cliff, and looking out upon the sea, saw a fagot floating at a distance, which they thought at first must be a large ship, so they waited, expecting to see it come into harbor. As the fagot drifted nearer to the shore, they thought it longer to be a ship, but a boat. But when it was at length thrown on the beach, they saw that it was nothing but a fagot after all.

Dangers seem greater at a distance; and coming events are magnified according to the interest or inclination of the beholder.

### Hoofland's German Tonic.

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