

## FARMERS' COLUMN.

### Seasonable hints.

The Gardner.—I have ever considered it good policy, that every farmer should have a good-sized, carefully worked and managed garden.—Yet there are nevertheless many who pretend to be farmers who the most liberal occupation of the phrase, who greatly neglect this important part of the economy of the household. Every person who has a good garden is in possession of a sort of savings institution where he can bestow much time that would be otherwise unprofitably spent, or thrown away.

Bucks.—The best a most valuable escutcheon, and should be sown early, in soil of a light texture and considerable depth. As the length and size of the roots are in a great measure, regulated by the depth of the soil, and its fineness, this is a most important consideration, and one which ought never to be overlooked. In manuring, I prefer old, well-rotted stable dung, mixed with gypsum, lime or house-ashears, or a compost formed of decayed vegetable substances with which there is mixed a portion of aluminous materials, sufficient in quantity to insure a ready solution and an energetic action of the manure when applied.—One

great error to be avoided in the cultivation of the best is thick sowing. In order to insure a good crop the plants ought never,

perhaps to stand nearer than twelve inches in the rows, which should be fourteen inches apart. This arrangement secures ample space and enables one to use the hoe in clearing the crop to the best advantage and without hazarding the plants which cannot be accomplished where the stand is more crowded and compact.—Before sowing, best seed should be soaked in some prepared steep, calculated to soften the hardness of the pericarp, which, and especially if the seed is more than one year old as of a nature so firm and indurated as to resist successfully the simple action of the soil upon it for a much longer time than is beneficial to the enclosed germs or the health of the future plant. One of the best preparations for this purpose, is common salt from the barn-yard or urine of any kind, in which copperas and gypsum have been mixed. In this the seed should remain submerged for a period varying from five to ten hours according to its age; the older it is, the longer should it be immersed. On removing it from the steep, it may be mixed with gypsum, ashes or dry sand to secure the sowing; or, indeed with any substance that will absorb the moisture and prevent its adhering to the hand. There are a few of the products of the kitchen garden liable to be more injuriously affected by weeds during the earlier stages of their development, than the beet.

Cleanly cultivation, consequently, is the best policy in this as in every other department of the farming art.

PARSNIPS.—Some culturist recommend sowing parsnips as early in the spring as the condition of the ground will admit. We have however seen excellent crops raised from seed sown after most other vegetables were up and pretty well advanced, and when the crop is intended for winter use I am decidedly of opinion that as in the case of carrots, late sowing is much to be preferred.

The parsnip like the beet requires a deep, rich mellow, and rather

dry sand to secure the perfection of its

best qualities; and where the circumstances unite it will be assisted by systematic cultivation prove a remunerating and highly desirable product on any farm. In selecting seed great care should be exercised as it is not unfrequently the case that serious and fatal disappointment results from the poorness of the seed which is apt to be greatly deteriorated in quality and even vitally destroyed by being kept in unsuitable situations even when it is new. I never saw the seed of this or any other vegetable, without first carefully testing its quality. This is easily performed and by the assistance of means which need not be recapitulated as they will, I have no doubt readily suggest themselves to every one.

THE CARROT.—For stock feeding, and winter use, the carrot should be sown late. The second week in May is early enough, though seeds for early domestic use may be got in as soon after the frost is out as the condition of the land will admit. I greatly desire to see the cultivation not only of the carrot but of the beet and parsnip extended as all three are excellent, and may be raised with profit by every person who has animal to feed on a single rod of soil on which to sow the seed. I can but indulge the hope that the day is by no means remote when our agriculture will be improved by this and similar "innovations," and when root crops will in a great measure, and with decided advantage supersede the use of hay and grain as food for farm stock.

A MONTGOMERY COUNTY FARMER.

March 12, 1851.

Curious of POTATOES.—I have found by experience that the best way to raise a large crop of sound potatoes, is to plant the tubers, and as soon as the first ones begin to show the tops above ground, cover them and the whole ground with manure; and when they are fairly above the ground, plaster them freely. The manure destroys all the weeds and grass, and when you hoe them the labor is light, and the tops soon cover the ground. The manure being on the surface, keeps the earth moist and loose; the potatoes grow large and of the first quality, and are not likely to rot. E. W. BOSTONIAN.—Farrel Place, N. Y., 1851.

STRENGTH IN CATTLE is caused by a change from poverty to rich feeding. It is most common in cattle turned into luxuriant pasture in the spring or early in summer; and those that have been kept poorly during the winter are most liable to this disease.

Symptoms.—Dullness, a constant disposition to sleep resting the head on any convenient place and reeling and staggering in attempt to walk.

Lettuce should be sown as early as the ground can be prepared. Early peas should be sown as soon as possible. Now is the time to select seeds, prepare beat-poles, pea-sticks, &c., and when needed they will be in readiness.

PEAS.—Dullness, a constant dispo-

sition to sleep resting the head on any convenient place and reeling and stagger-

ing in attempt to walk.

A paper advertisement a lost sheet, belong-

to a gentleman lined with blue.

MEAN MAN.—He who does not patronize his home paper.

MEANER.—He who takes the paper and

don't pay for it.

LYONS, NEAL says, in an article in the last number of Sartains Magazine that tobacco costs the world more yearly than all its wars and systems of education.

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