THE PLOWMAN.

Tearing up the stubborn soil—
Trudging, drudging, toiling, moiling,
Hands and feet and garments soiling—
Who would grudge the ploughman's toil?
Yet there's lustre in his eye,
Borrowed from yon glowing sky;
And there's meaning in his glances
That bespeak no dreamer's fancies—
For his mind has precious lore,
Gleamed from Nature's sacred store.

Toiling up yon weary hill,
He has worked since early morning,
Ease and rest, and pleasure scorning,
And he's at his labor still—
Though the slanting western beam,
Quivering on the glassy stream,
And yon old elm's lengthened shadow
Flung athwart the verdant meadow,
Tell that shadowy twilight gay
Cannot now be far away.

See! he stops and wipe's his brow—
Marks the rapid sun's descending—
Marks his shadow far extending—
Deems it time to quit the plough.
Weary man and weary steed
Welcome food and respite need,
'Tis the hour when bird and bee
Seek repose—and why not he?
Nature loves the twilight blest,
Let the toil-worn plowman rest!

Ye, who nursed upon the breast
Of ease and pleasure enervating,
Ever new delights creating
Which not long retain their rest—
Ere upon your taste they pall,
What avail your pleasures all?
In his hard but pleasant labor,
He, your useful, healthful neighbor,
Finds enjoyment, real, true—
Vainly sought by such as you.

Nature's open volume lies,
Richly tinted, brightly beaming,
With its various lessons teeming,
All outspread before your eyes.
Dewy glades and opening flowers,
Emerald meadows, vernal bowers,
Sun and shade, and bird and bee,
Fount and forest, hill and lea—
All things beautiful and fair,
His benignant teachers are.

Tearing up the stubborn soil—
Trudging, drudging, toiling, moiling,
Hands and feet and garments soiling,
Who would grudge the ploughman's toil?
Yet 'tis health and wealth to him,
Strength of nerve, and strength of limb,
Light and fervor in his glances,
Life and beauty in his fancies,
Learned and happy, brave and free;
Who so proud and blest as he?

Culture of Roots.

We have from time to time, thrown out hints upon this subject, which is unquestionably one of paramount importance to the agricultural and stock-growing interests of this Territory.

Hitherto the farmer has directed his attention to the raising of grain, almost to the utter exclusion of everything else. The improvement of his lands and his stock seems to have scarcely entered into his mind.

From an article recently printed in the *News*, emanating from the Domestic Gardener's Club, our Farmers and others desirous of entering into the culture of roots will be able to learn all that need be written upon the most approved modes of cultivation, the best varieties, etc. We refer all such to the report of the committee on vegetables, second division, printed in No. 49, Vol. IX.

In that article it is stated that the *Long Orange* carrot is the best for general cultivation. This carrot, we believe, is better adapted to the soil and climate of these valleys than any other variety known. It is highly nutritious, requires less water and yields more per acre than any other known variety.

We regard the carrot as the best root that can be cultivated by the farmer. It does not exhaust the soil as do many other crops, while it furnishes an article of fodder capable of being profitably used for every kind of stock and is especially adapted to the promotion of health during the winter months, when succulent food is so much required. For milch cows, in winter, we know of nothing better than carrots.

The sugar beet, probably, is next to the carrot in value for winter feed of animals; from which, also, a fair sample of molasses can be manufactured, as also a species of very palatable beer, which, it is stated, will keep longer than much of our malt beer and continually improve in flavor.

The mangold wurzel, a species of the beet, is extensively grown in many parts of Europe for feeding stock, and have usually proved a remunerative crop here.

The parsnep is highly relished by many for table use, to be dug in the spring, after having remained in the ground all winter. Good molasses has also been made from the parsnep, but, if only sufficient be grown for use till the earlier vegetables come to maturity, they will generally be found acceptable.

As to the turnip, though profitable crops have been raised in a few instances, they may be said to be quite unsuited to this locality. Requiring a rich and very moist soil, they are found in the greatest perfection in England, where they are considered a principal crop for stock-feeding in winter. They are also largely cultivated there for table use; while here and, indeed, throughout the United States, they are found to be far inferior, in point of size and flavor to those grown in England. Our atmosphere is too dry for the nature of the turnip, which is naturally very porous and juicy, water forming a large proportion of its composition.

We shall expect to see our farmers, this spring, plant all the carrot seed that can be procured; and, as the supply seems to be limited, let there be no labor spared to secure for another year an abundance of seed.

For raising seed, select the finest shaped carrots and those most true to the *long orange* variety. Every farmer should raise his own seed, *so far as practicable.*

"Oats for the Horse."

The season having fully arrived when, all things being propitious, oats should be sown, we present our readers with a few suggestions relative to this crop which, doubtless, will be found serviceable to many.

A writer in the New York *Day Book* says that the common oats of the country are perhaps the worst grain produced in the United States; for which he assigns the following:

1st.—The farmers do not take pains to procure good seed.

2d.—They generally sow their seed over and over again.

3d.—They cut the crop in the milk.

4th.—The season in the northern States is much too short for this crop.

The causes for all this are traced to these facts:

1st.—The farmer is brought up in ignorance of chemistry and the common laws of nature, which govern all things, and does not suppose any change can affect the crop, as one seed, in his estimation, is as good as another.

2d.—The sowing of the same seed in the same ground, year after year, causes degeneration. This is frequently done to save trouble and a few dollars.

3d.—When the crop is cut before it is ripe, the same effect is produced upon the quality of the grain that breeding prematurely or from two year olds has upon the animal kingdom. Both animals and vegetables must come to maturity before required to reproduce, else the reproduction is degenerate in any sense.

4th.—To obviate the natural shortness of the season, the grain should be put in as early as the ground is in a proper condition to receive it. The grain should be kept standing as long as possible.

The practice of growing wheat for all purposes—for bread, for horse feed, for swine, and as a universal commodity of exchange with the merchant for his imported fabrics and family supplies has thus far operated disastrously in every respect—inciting a morbid taste, pampering innumerable needless cravings and erecting a strong barrier against the onward movement of home manufactures.

Oats do not exhaust the soil so much as wheat, though they are classed among the most rank-feeding grains; and, if our farmers will sow with oats a few acres of suitable land, at least what may be required to raise sufficient for their own use, we are quite certain that, with other judicious care and management, their horses will be found more profitable and better looking animals than many of them are now, and peradventure they may not find so many inducements to barter away their precious grain for that which is not bread, or expend their labors for that which satisfieth not.

American Stock Journal.—We have the first number for 1860. Its contents commend it to the attention of every farmer and stock-grower, as it is devoted to the improvement of domestic animals. It is published monthly at 25 Park Row, New York, at one dollar per year; and each number contains 32 large octavo pages, handsomely illustrated. The engravings of the improved Kentucky sheep and other animals, in the number before us, are well worth the subscription price.

THE DOMESTIC GARDENER'S CLUB TRANSACTIONS.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON VEGETABLES.

CLASS III.—VEGETABLE ROOTS.

Division First—The Onion, Garlic, Shallot and Leek.

The onion requires a deep, rich soil, which should be well manured before planting.

CULTURE.

The ground should be well dug before planting, which should be done so early in the spring as it will crumble and work freely. When dug the ground may be raked level, and if it is loose and mellow, tread or roll the surface so as to make it compact and smooth.

DRAWING THE DRILLS.

For sowing the seed, drills may be drawn one foot apart and two inches deep, and sow the seed at the rate of one ounce to two square rods.

For the top onion, garlic and shallots the rows may be one foot apart, three inches deep and the bulbs or roots may be planted three or four inches apart in the rows. When planted, cover the seed and bulbs lightly with fine earth with a hoe, being careful to remove any clods and not to disturb the roots in covering.

The leek may be sown in drills precisely the same as the onion.

SUMMER CULTURE.

So soon as the young onions are up to see them clearly in the rows, give them a light hoeing between the rows to keep down the young weeds, that they may not grow and injure the plants. Hoeing may be continued as often as the weeds appear, that they may not rob the onions of the nutriment in the ground.

THINNING THE YOUNG PLANTS

In the row may be done so soon as they are the size of a knitting needle. They are to be thinned out to five inches apart in the row to remain for a crop. It is essential to do this business early to grow good onions; as, when it is deferred too late, it is rarely the plants produce good bulbs.

WATERING.

When the young plants are sufficiently grown to draw drills without covering them, the work may be done by drawing a drill between each row two inches deep.

When the ground becomes dry and hard, the watering may be commenced, being careful not to water too freely at first. Continue to water as often as needed until the bulbs appear to be fully grown, when the watering may be suspended, in order to ripen the roots.

DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF ONIONS.

No. 1—Large White Portugal or Silver Skin.

The onion is a fine, large, fat root, of a clear white silver skin, flesh also white; an excellent variety for boiling and culinary use, but does not keep so well as the yellow and red varieties.

No. 2— Yellow Stradsburgh.

An old favorite variety with yellow skin and greenish yellow flesh; quite hardy, keeps well; an excellent variety for domestic use in fall and winter.

No. 3—Large Red Wethersfield.

A fine, large, red onion, extremely hardy, well shaped root, with a red skin and redish purple flesh, particularly adapted for general culture.

REMARKS.

It is useless to attempt the growing onions from seed on poor, sandy, gravelly soil, but the top onion may be substituted to a good purpose on such locations. The garlic and shallots may be planted from the main roots in the spring by dividing the chives or offsets and the leeks may be transplanted when about the size of a goose quill in rows one foot apart and six inches in the row, the same as the top onion.

The leek, garlic and shallot are excellent substitutes for the onion in winter for soups and culinary purposes, and in many countries preferred; indeed the leek represents the national emblem of Wales, and the garlic and shallot is preferred by the Danes and Dutch in their pottage.

All these roots can be cultivated to a good advantage on poor, meagre soil and are perfectly hardy and deserve to be more generally introduced as a substitute for the onion.

E. Sayers,
W. Wagstaff.

The Health of Cattle.

The *American Veterinarian* contains the following good advice towards promoting the health of cattle. There is a good deal in the following paragraphs, expressed in a few words:

Mix, occasionally, one part of salt in four, five, or six parts of wood ashes, and give the mixture to different kinds of stock, summer and winter. It promotes their appetites, and tends to keep them in a healthy condition. It is said to be good against bots in horses, murrain in cattle, and rot in sheep.

Horse radish root is valuable for cattle. It creates an appetite, and is good for various diseases. Some give it to any animal that is unwell. It is good for oxen troubled with the heat. If animals will not eat it voluntarily, cut it up fine and mix with potatoes and meal.

Feed all animals regularly. They not only look for their food at the usual time, but the stomach indicates the want at a stated period.

Therefore, feed morning, noon and evening as near the same time each day as possible.

Guard against the wide and injurious extremes of satiating with excess and starving with want. Food should be of a suitable quality, and proportioned to the growth and fattening of animals, to their production in young and milk, and to their labor and exercise. Animals that labor need far more food, and that which is far more nutritious, than those that are idle.

Guard all descriptions of stock against cold and exposure, especially against cold storms of rain, sleet and damp snow, and against laying out on the cold ground in cold nights, in the spring and fall.

Plant Fruit Trees of all kinds. What matters it if, for once, some of the fruit trees have been injured by the frost of the past winter, most of them will doubtless survive. We have every reason to hope that the disappointment manifested by some of our spirited amateurs, on account of the damage sustained by their trees will by no means prove fatal to their good taste and perseverance in fruit culture.

Yes, we repeat, plant fruit trees and all kinds of trees and shrubs—for shade, for ornament and for fruit—and do not, when you go to purchase them, ask the nurseryman if he won't take one or two cents less than his price for a tree; for, so far as we have been advised, the prices are already reduced to a very reasonable figure.

Imported Seeds.—We are informed that Mr. E. Sayers has this season, at considerable expense imported a complete stock of the choicest seeds, from some of the best nurseries in the East, from which he expects to raise a large quantity of superior plants for transplanting this season, such as cabbages, tomatoes, etc., and a supply of seeds for next year; designing every other year to grow his seeds from pure, imported varieties. He says that, from admixture, the dryness of our climate and other causes, most varieties become deteriorated and unfit to propagate, in two or three years.

The Roses.—We are reliably informed that most of our imported roses have been destroyed the past winter. The white rose, called the Damask, we believe, of the same variety as that growing in br. Woodruff's garden, alluded to last summer, the stocks of which were raised from seed by br. L. S. Hemenway, have proved hardy and appear to be uninjured. A pale pink rose has also survived. We shall be able, ere long, to ascertain which kinds are hardy and discard those which are not, except for growing in pots in the windows.

Early Radishes—A good method to pursue to obtain radishes free from worms is to mix seeds of the Early Olive Radish, or other early variety, with that of the onion, sowing them together; that is, in a bed requiring two ounces of onion seed, mix one-half an ounce of the radish.

The Endurance of Horses.—Some curious experiments have been made at the Veterinary school at Alfort, by order of the Minister of War, to ascertain the endurance of horses, as in a besieged town, for example: It appears that a horse will live on water alone five and twenty days; seventeen days without eating or drinking; only five days if fed but unwatered; ten days if fed and insufficiently watered. A horse kept without water for three days drank 104 pounds of water in three minutes. It was found too, that a horse taken after being fed and kept in the active exercise of the "squadron school," completely digested its "feed" in three hours; in the same time at the "conscript's school," its food was two-thirds digested; and if kept perfectly quiet in a stable, digestion was scarcely commenced in three hours.