

Agricultural.

PLASTER, ASHES, &c., ON SOIL.

EDITOR FARMER: Having lately had a conversation with a farmer of Multnomah county relative to the effects of plaster and ashes on soil in Oregon, and having a few days afterwards found the inclosed from the *Ohio Farmer*, I send it to you for publication, if you deem it of importance enough.

I used plaster and ashes in Plymouth county, Massachusetts, some thirty years ago, and found the result similar to what is set forth in the inclosed communication. The soil was a sandy loam, very different from most of the soil in Oregon; still I think it would have a beneficial effect in some localities here, and is well worthy of a trial. I have used it in potato hills, putting it directly upon the seed potato, in quantity about one large tablespoonful to a hill or potato. In experimenting with plaster and common stable manure, in alternate rows, I found that in the hills where manure was put the skin of the potatoes was very rough, and looked as if it had been bitten by worms or other insects, or pox-marked; while in those that had plaster the skins of the potatoes were extremely smooth and fair, and if I recollect aright, the yield was about one-third in favor of the plaster.

I have used leached ashes put in with the seed corn, and spread on grass land, with very beneficial effect. I have also used ashes in the water-closets of my dwelling-houses in Portland for the past five years, and find it a very effectual deodorizer, but do not say it is equal to plaster. The vaults of the water-closets are shallow, about three feet deep, and so constructed that they can be easily cleaned out with a long-handled shovel. They are cleaned at least once a year, and it is better if cleaned every six months. I put the contents of the vaults into old barrels, (empty lime-casks are preferable,) cover them over with loam, and let them stand a year; when needed for use, mix about one-third loam, well pulverized together. This makes an article for fertilizing nearly equal to guano. I hold that no water-closet vaults should be dug so deep but that they can be cleaned out with a long-handle shovel. There is no doubt but that much of our sickness in cities is caused by the long use of deep water-closet vaults. Some will use them for years without cleaning (some of them are so deep they cannot be cleaned except at great expense), or even using any kind of deodorizer. Even these deep vaults can be made much purer if every family would empty all their ashes into them, instead of throwing them into the streets or into their slop-barrels, and then hire the same carted away.

Most respectfully, yours,
THOS. FRAZER,
Portland, May 23, 1872.

PLASTER, ASHES, &c.

There is no product of nature that can be turned to better account by the farmer than plaster. And yet it is not in itself a manure. A writer on agricultural topics says: "There are only five commonly cultivated crops which contain plaster in any sensible proportions, and of these there are raised in this country, lucerne, red clover, and turnips." We cannot refrain from asking why such a writer alludes to plaster at all?—What is plaster, and by what means does it act upon vegetation? Like charcoal, it has but one office to perform. It is a deodorizer. That is, it absorbs ammonia (bad smells), the most active of all manurial agents, and yields them up to the demand of any vegetable coming in contact with it. It has been asserted, and there are certainly good philosophical reasons to sustain the assertion that if a field of any given size were divided into sections, the outer ones being annually manured and the interior ones heavily plastered, that after a few years the plastered land will be the richest part of the field. The reason for this is that the plaster seizes upon the ammonia escaping from that portion of the field which has been manured, and in all the vicissitudes of the season locks it in

its impassive folds until it is brought in contact with vegetable life to which alone it yields up its treasure. In the meantime itself remains intact in the soil, ready again and again to perform in the same way. But there is this difference between the two. While charcoal is an active deodorizer, it has very little if any effect in changing the species of plants already growing upon this soil. This office both plaster and ashes perform with most wonderful facility. It was once our fortune to come into possession of a worn-out pasture badly overgrown with moss. To eradicate this was an important matter in our mind, and this we desired to do without plowing. We resorted to the use of plaster and ashes in alternate sections. On certain of these patches of moss we spread plaster, and on others ashes. Two years afterward the moss-grown patches were luxuriant beds of white clover. To which of these agents we ought to award the preference was a question which we would not attempt to solve. They both performed their part to our satisfaction and even astonishment. The use of plaster in stables, out-houses, hen-coops, piggeries, &c., is a matter of the greatest importance. The stench which escapes from these noisome places is alike intolerable, slovenly, and wasteful. It is the life of vegetation that assails the nostrils as one approaches these places on its way to the forests. Arrested and worked up by an application of plaster or fine charcoal, or even dry earth, and applied to the corn-field or orchard, it would enliven the growing crop, giving it a greener tinge and more luxuriant appearance, and increasing the yield in a wonderful ratio to the expense of saving it. We owe a debt of gratitude to John Chinaman for teaching us the utility of dry earth in arresting the waste which is constantly occurring in stables and other noisome places, equally with the enterprising Yankee who seized upon the idea to get a patent upon it, for without both of these irrefragables we should have been very many years in satisfying ourselves of the utility of such a commodity in the performance of such an office. Now, however, every city has its depository of earth closets, and every one of these that finds its way to practical use is better than a schoolmaster in demonstrating the wonderful results attending the use of this very important "invention."

In the earth closet, dry earth performs the same office that we assign to plaster and charcoal, and if it were not so cheap and so universally accessible we do not know but we would advise the farmers to substitute it for plaster. But it requires but little plaster where a considerable amount of dry earth is used. A slight sprinkling of plaster every day deodorizes a barn, while with the earth an application equal to the absorption of all the moisture in the commodity to be deodorized is necessary. The labor of drawing in and drying such a mass of earth and then drawing it out to apply to the field is too considerable to be entertained by most farmers. But it would pay well to do it, perhaps altogether better than even plaster.—Still, plaster is plenty, cheap, cleanly, and effectual, and a little will do. Hence, we say, use plaster, and while you are at it use it freely.—We have alluded to ashes as effecting certain results equal to plaster. Let no one by any means suppose that we regard the two as similar, only in so far as both absorb moisture and both promote the growth of clover. But ashes are no deodorizer.—Pound for pound ashes are worth upon wheat, pound for pound, ten times as much as plaster, because they afford potash. Mixed with salt in the proportion of one bushel of salt to four of ashes, and applied to wheat in quantities of fifty and if able eighty bushels to the acre, they double the crop on all old land. The same compound used in the same proportions and quantity have an equally beneficial effect upon the product of flax, tobacco, and grass. The reason of this is obvious enough. They each contain the chemical properties demanded by these vegetables. This mixture is cheaper than any other of equal effect, and more enduring in the soil. Mr. R. M. Y., in the *Southern Farm and Home*, publishes the statement that twelve bushels of wood ashes applied to an acre of wheat in March effectually protected it from rust. Col. Sweet, of Paris, Me., says he put 100 bushels of ashes on an acre and a half of run-down land, bringing it into red and white clover, and producing over a ton to the acre of excellent hay where nothing had been raised before. The value of ashes is appreciated by only a few, and this few are our most successful farmers. We know one wealthy farmer who buys all the ashes from a large soap factory, paying ten cents per bushel at the factory, transports them by rail over sixty-five miles, and then carts them over four miles. He has the best land, the best building, the

best teams and stock, the best fruits, the best fences, and the most satisfactory returns for his labor of any farmer in his vicinity, and were we to say that he owes the most of these to the use of ashes we should be telling simply a truth, which this long and persistent use upon his land has year by year been revealing to all his acquaintances.—*Ohio Farmer*.

Pedigree of Short-Horn Bull Calf "CENTRAL PACIFIC."

Roan, bred by, and the property of, S. G. Reed, Portland, Oregon; calved Nov. 10th, 1871; got by Bismark (25637) out of Aecia by Knight Errant (18154); Amethyst by Magna Charta (16486); Applin by Lord Raglan (14849); Amaryllis by Burgomaster (12513); Aecia by Baron of Ravensworth (7811); Penance by Lyeur (7180); Dimity by Zenith (5702); Dimity by Guardian (3947); Dimity by Firby (1040); Dimity by Ivanhoe (1131); Dimity by Regent (544); Dimity by Blyth Comet (85).

Aecia, the dam of Central Pacific, was bred by Mr. G. Bland, Coleby Hall, England, and imported by M. A. Cochrane, Esq., of Compton, Canada, in 1871. She is descended from the stock of Earl Spencer. Her sire, Knight Errant, bred by Mr. Booth at Warlaby, was by Sir Samuel from Vivandere, granddam of the celebrated prize bull, Commander-in-Chief.—Magna Charta was a son of Mr. Booth's prize bull Windsor. Lord Raglan, a prize winner, by Mr. Booth's Harbinger (sire of Mazurka); Burgomaster was by Mr. Booth's Hopewell, and Mr. Lax's Ravensworth was one of the most celebrated bulls of his day, and, from all accounts, the blood and type of his ancestors are fully represented and maintained in the bull calf "Central Pacific," which is now nearly six months old.

Pedigree of Short-Horn Bull Calf "LORD OF THE VALLEY."

Red and white, calved May 21, 1872; bred by, and the property of, S. G. Reed, Portland, Oregon; sire, Royal Commander, 10914, (29857); dam, Honcysuckle, by Royal Duke (25014); 2d dam, Sweetbriar, by Nimrod (13388); 3d dam, Charlotte, by Selim (6454); 4th dam, Rebecca, by Rex (6385); 5th dam, Fair Maid of Athens, by Sir Thomas Fairfax (5196); 6th dam, Medora, by Ambo (1636); 7th dam, Blossom, by Memnon (2295); 8th dam, Own Sister to Isabella, by Pilot (496); 9th dam, White Cow, by Agamemnon (9); 10th dam, by Mr. Burrell's bull (1768) of Bourbon, near Darlington.

Royal Commander, the sire of Lord of the Valley, is a pure Booth bull, bred by Mr. T. C. Booth, Warlaby, of whom he was purchased by M. H. Cochrane, Esq., Compton, Can. Honcysuckle, the dam of Lord of the Valley, was bred by Mr. Barnes, England, and imported by M. H. Cochrane, Esq., of Compton, Canada, in 1870; Royal Duke, bred by Mr. G. Barnes, was by Mr. Booth's Royal Sovereign, out of a British Flag cow. He won the first prize at the great Dublin spring show as a yearling, and is considered one of the best bulls of the present day. Nimrod was by Mr. John Booth's Neptune from his Spice, descended from the Braeclat tribe.—Sir Thomas Fairfax was the first prize bull at the Royal Society's meeting in 1842, and won a number of other prizes; he was used by several noted breeders, and sold for a high price. The Isabella or Medora tribe was bred by Mr. Richard Booth, and produced many of his best bulls—Fitz-Leonard, Vanguard, Highflyer, and others.

Pedigree of Short-Horn Bull Calf "WEB-FOOT PRINCE."

Red, bred by, and the property of, S. G. Reed, Portland, Oregon; calved Jan. 5th, 1872; got by Rosalio (24998) out of Anemone by Duke of Grafton (21594); German Aster, by Royal Arch (18740); China Aster, by Archduke 2d (15558); Cream, by Young Weathercock (15485); Roan Crocus, by General Elliott (10296); Red Crocus, by Young Locksley (4240); Crocus, by Sherborne (10805); Crocus, by Prince (4772); Hawthorne, by Stanhope (5315); Beauty, by Son of Sir Kenneth (1450); Beauty, by Pilot (1319); Beauty, by Thorpe (1515); Beauty, by Waitell's Bull (1567).

Anemone, the dam of Web-Foot Prince, was bred by Mr. Christy Chelmsford, Esq., and imported by M. H. Cochrane, Esq., of Compton, Canada, in 1871, and is descended from a tribe of very fine stock selected for Mr. Langston in the north of England. Duke of Grafton was the sire of the imported bull Old Sam (now owned by Col. W. S. King, of Minneapolis), that won the sweepstakes at the St. Louis Fair in 1870, and was also at the head of the prize herd.

NOTE.—The numbers in () refer to the English Herd Book—those not in () to the American Herd Book.

LIQUID EXCREMENT.—How strangely we overlook the value of the liquid excrement of our animals. A cow, under ordinary feeding, furnishes in a year 20,000 pounds of solid excrement, and about 8,000 pounds of liquid. The comparative money value of the two is but slightly in favor of the solid. This statement has

been verified as truth, over and over again. The urine of herbivorous animals holds nearly all the secretions of the body which are capable of producing the rich nitrogenous compounds so essential as forcing or leaf-forming agents in the growth of plants. The solid holds the phosphoric acid, the lime and magnesia which go to the seeds principally; but the liquid, holding nitrogen, potash and soda, is needed in forming the stalk and leaves. The two forms of plant nutriment should never be separated or allowed to be wasted by neglect. The farmer who saves all the urine of his animals doubles his manurial resources every year. Good seasoned peat is of immense service to farmers, when used as an absorbent, and the stalls for animals should be so constructed as to admit of a wide passage in the rear with generous passage room for peat, to be used daily with the excrement.

Correspondence.

LETTER FROM UMATILLA COUNTY.

ED. FARMER: Having promised you a few notes from this section occasionally, I send you the following: The weather through the month of April, and up to within the last week, has been cold and dry, with a considerable amount of wind added, rendering it extremely unpleasant for out-door occupations, also materially shortening the crops and blighting the buoyant hopes of the community. All eyes are anxiously turned toward the heavens, imploring the gentle messenger to descend and once more refresh vegetation, and settle the dust, which, by the way, is "huge." Stock, however, was never known to do better in any country than they have here all season—all fat, or rapidly becoming so, and it is not at all unlikely that they will continue to fare better throughout the whole of this year than the last, as the bunch grass is seeding out now, while last year it did not—the seed of this grass proving as efficient in fattening properties as almost any grain that we produce.—The weather, for the last few days, has become oppressively warm, and there are good indications of rain now. Let it come. There has been no good general rain in Umatilla county for more than two months, yet as there was so much moisture during the winter, crops will suffer much less than might be imagined.

Sheep, which is the all-absorbing subject of the day, as though it were the only business in which ready fortunes are to be had, are commanding the attention of their owners, who, generally, are just through lambing their flocks, and now are stripping them of their fleeces.—Sheep-shearers get eight cents per head for shearing. April is usually the month in which sheep-men here lamb their flocks; but it would have been far better for them had they this year chosen March, as the weather was more suitable, and consequently less loss of the increase would have been sustained.

More than usual interest is manifested by the citizens of this section in securing titles to their homes, and stock-men are buying up the watering places, and thus securing the range for their herds.

There is a good demand for laborers at present, and will constantly be increasing until the harvest season is ended. Men, for common work on ranches, get from \$30 to \$40 per month throughout the year, and in saw mills, teaching, &c., from \$40 to \$60 per month. In harvest wages are \$2 per day. School-teachers for common schools are paid from \$40 to \$50 per month with board.

F. B. LOGAN,
Birch Creek, May 20, 1872.

A man who gets a woman worth her weight in gold has not secured so very great a prize after all. The avoirdupois of the average feminine, somebody has taken trouble to ascertain, will balance only about \$30,000 in gold. That, in these times, is considered hardly worth thinking of.

REIMPLANTATION.—We mentioned some months ago that a member of the Odontological Society had succeeded in replanting teeth which had been extracted in consequence of disease. To the process by which this was accomplished he gave the name "reimplantation." Another member of the same Society has now had the operation tried on himself, and with success. The tooth, which had been for some time painfully affected by changes of temperature, was carefully pulled out, to prevent straining or tearing of the gum; the dental canal was cleansed, the decayed part was scraped from the crown, and stopping applied in the usual way, and then the tooth was replaced in its socket. The operation lasted about half an hour; for three or four hours there was a dull aching pain, which, however, entirely ceased before noon of the following day, though some tenderness remained. This in turn disappeared; and by the end of a fortnight, the replanted tooth did without difficulty all the duty which a tooth is expected to do. From this it will be understood that a tooth slightly diseased at the root need not be thrown away, and that persons who object to an artificial tooth may with proper care retain the teeth which nature gave them.—*Chambers' Journal*.

TAUGHT TO CHEAT.—A young man was lately tried at Brighton, England, Sessions, and convicted of stealing no fewer than 1,582 articles. The prisoner made a speech on the conclusion of his trial, in which he declared first, that he had never stolen any article whatever until he had been unjustly suspected; and that suspicion made him a thief. Second, he affirmed that while it was true he had stolen from his employers to please himself, he had stolen far more from customers to please his employers. He intimated that they had taught him to cheat, and he had proved an apt scholar; but that, unhappily, when the villainy they had taught was exerted against themselves, they had turned to crush him. He had added some trenchant observations on the relation between traders and shopmen. The latter, he said, were expected to overreach customers, and if they did not, or could not, they were soon sent about their business.

PARTICULARS of the late earthquake in Syria are now coming to hand. The fatalities were not the greatest in the city of Antioch, but were heavier in the vicinity of the city. A letter from Antioch, dated the 4th of April, says: "The American Protestant church was severely injured, and few of the American community were killed. All members of missionaries are safe. The number of persons killed in the city of Antioch is less than 300; but it is known that 1,600 perished in the surrounding towns of the country, where the shocks were as severe, if not greater, than here. This number may be increased. The distress of the people will be only temporary, as the crop prospects are good. The supply of provisions on hand is moderate."

THE sweetest, most clinging affection, is often shaken by the slightest breath of unkindness, as the delicate rings and tendrils of the vine are agitated by the faintest air that blows in summer. An unkind word from one beloved often draws blood from many a heart which would defy the battle axe of hatred, or the keen edge of vindictive satire. Nay, the shade, the gloom of the face familiar and dear, awakens pain. These are the little thorns, which though men of a rougher form may make their way through them without feeling much, extremely incommode persons of a more refined turn in their journey through life, and make their traveling tiresome and unpleasant.

In California, editors are exempted from jury duty. A similar provision should be adopted here; for if a man who only reads a newspaper be deemed unfit to serve on a jury, the man who edits it must be doubly so.