Farmer's Column.

He that by the plow would thrive,
Himself must either hold or drive.

From the Genessee Farmer.

John Johnson's Farm,

NEAR GENEVA, N. Y.

We have so frequently alluded to this farm, that a detailed description of it is unnecessary. When Mr. J. bought it, many years ago, it was so poor that one of his neighbors said he "would starve on it."—The farm is on the borders of Seneca Lake; much of it high rolling land, that would seem to need draining as little as any farm in the State. Still it is full of springs, and this was the cause of its unproductiveness. Mr. J. imported, at much cost, a few drain tiles from Scotland, and commenced underdraining. The result was so beneficial that he had them made by hand, at a cost of $28 per thousand. He next induced the late John Delafield, Esq., to import a machine for making tiles, and after this the same tiles could be obtained in the neighborhood at $8 per thousand. Mr. J. did not stop his draining operation (whoever did that once commenced tile-draining in a judicious manner?) till his whole farm was thoroughly underdrained from 2½ to 3 feet deep. He has laid, on about 306 acres of land, fifty-two miles of under-drains. In addition to this the land has been admirably cultivated; large quantities of clover have been grown and made into hay—not plowed in; a heavy stock of cattle and sheep has been kept; all the corn and spring grains grown have been consumed on the farm; and besides this, many tons of oil-cake have annually been purchased as food for cattle and sheep. All this has made the land very rich—and the land has made Mr. Johnson rich in return.

It has been Mr. Johnson's practice to summer fallow for wheat—ploughing the land three or four times. But he finds that this makes the land too rich for Mediterranean wheat—it produces too much straw, and the crop falls down. Instead of summer fallow, he crops the land with oats or barley, followed with wheat. Last year he had a 20 acre field that produced 35 bushels of Mediterranean wheat after barley.

James O. Sheldon's Farm.—On the 6th of July we visited the farm of James O. Sheldon, Esq., near Geneva, N. Y.—Mr. S. is well known as a successful breeder and importer of Short-horn cattle. He has one of the finest herds in the State, numbering forty-five head. The farm contains 300 acres, principally laid down in grass. It is delightfully situated on the high rolling land which forms the Western slope of Seneca Lake. The house and farm buildings are all in the centre of the farm, and the land recedes in a gentle slope on either side, but rises again at a short distance to the west, forming a beautiful background of sloping hill-sides, while the intervening space is dotted with noble specimens of the American elm, with their stalwart trunks and pendant branches. In the foreground, we have a very fine view of the picturesque village of Geneva and the quiet waters of Lake Seneca, with its sloping banks on the opposite side, studed with peaceful farm houses and smiling fields of grain, white for the harvest. It is one of Nature's loveliest spots. As you approach the spot along the quiet road, the fine trees, the artificial fish-ponds with weeping willows in the centre, the closely mown lawn, and well cultivated grounds and garden, all indicate the abode of wealth and taste.

Mr. Seldon is much in favor of top-dressing his grass lands. One field of timothy, 30 acres, was top-dressed with from ten to fifteen loads per acre of rather strawy manure, the early part of March. The manure has all disappeared in the dense sward and the crop of timothy is very fine.

Mr. S. mentioned an interesting fact in regard to the value of salt, in seeding down to grass. He sows from one to two bushels of salt per acre, on the land at the time of seeding in the Spring, and the effect is quite marked. He sows ten quarts of timothy and three quarts of clover seed per acre. In a field of 30 acres, seeded down in the Spring, about the 10th of May, 1859, 15 acres received a bushel and a half of salt per acre, sown broadcast; at the time of seeding, and on this portion of the field the seeds took well, and the crop this year, is much larger on the salted, than on the unsalted portion.

Here is a 12 acre field of very heavy oats. They are the English potatoe oat, seed imported last Spring from England, weighing 48 lbs. per bushel, sown at the rate of 2½ bushels per acre, which is heavy seeding for this country, but rather light for England, where four to five bushels per acre is not uncommon. It is the finest field of oats we have seen this season.

Here the men are thinning and hoeing eleven acres of white French Sugar Beets, which Mr. S. prefers to mangels, as more profitable and nutritious, though not yielding, perhaps, so large a crop. They are planted on the English system: ridges are made two feet apart, manure then put in, the ridges afterwards split with the plow and the manure covered, then rolled and the seed planted from 12 to 15 inches apart.

Here is eight acres of Canadian Blue stem wheat, the seed obtained from Mr. Harrison, of St. Lawrence county. It stands up straight and stiff, straw nearly six feet high, heads large, and well filled. It is nearly ripe and the midge has not injured it. In the same field the Mediterranean wheat is down "as flat as a pancake."

Hens Laying all the Year.

Some people think that if they keep their hens warm in the winter, that they will lay eggs freely all the year; but that is a mistake, as fowls can be made to lay but about 10 dozen eggs each in the year, if ever so great pains are taken with them in the winter; and when they lay a good deal in the winter, they lay enough less in the spring, so that not over the average of 10 dozen eggs are obtained usually.—The *Prairie Farmer* has the following statement, which leads one to infer that his hens may be made to lay 100 or 300 eggs in a year—according to the management of them. Still, the better treatment spoken of is advisable, as more eggs will be laid in the winter, by adopting it, when they command a better price, but it will be at the expense of the regular spring laying.

TREATMENT OF HENS.—Two flocks of hens were compared. One laid eggs almost all the time; the other laid scarcely any. On examining their treatment, the following differences were found to exist: the former had a warm cellar to roost in during the winter; the latter roosted in a stable where the wind blew in. The former had a fine place in an open cellar for scratching among ashes, lime, and earth, the latter scratched in the manure heap, or in the stable when the cows were put out. The former had plenty of good water, with milk, &c.; the others had no drink except what they could find.—*Rural American.*

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