

The Farm and Dairy.

My First Experiences in Gardening.
By THOMAS DILL FISHER.

My health being somewhat impaired by literary pursuits, I thought of no better way of preparing it than to engage in gardening.

After the ground had been plowed and manured, I cultivated it by loosening the soil with a hoe and making of the stones with a garden rake. I sowed upon the ground, thus prepared, onion seeds in drills one foot apart. This work was performed in the month of April. When the onions were three inches high, I thinned them so they stood three inches apart. I began to eradicate the weeds as soon as they appeared, by pulling them from the rows of onions, and by hoing them out between the rows. I continued this process until they ceased to grow, which was about the last of July. The month of June was a very moist one. I sifted ashes over the onions to keep off all insects; and as it was a very dry season here, I laid plaster upon them.

The last of July, or first of August, I broke down the tops of the onions by rolling a barrel containing stones over them; and if any of the tops arose again, I repeated the process. The tops must be bent down to make them set, or will principally be set.

After the tops were thoroughly bent, I loosened the soil around each onion, that they might enlarge above ground. During the month of August and September they attained their size.

On a piece of ground three rods long by twenty-two feet wide, I raised fifteen bushels of onions, and sold them for one dollar and fifty cents a bushel. The seed cost me ten dollars. That was my only expense.

Water Protection of grass Land.
Speaking of this, F. G., says in the *Lay Stock Journal*, there are all manner of ways to protect the grass feeding the aftermath, or in other words during the meadow pastures. They hold that the aftermath is an excellent feed, rich in nitrogen. They do not consider, it seems, that quality of superior importance may be required by a retention of the fall growth; or do they hold that the grass itself suffers loss by being cut down? It is certain enough that this last can not be the case, as the grass is pressed down by the snow close to the ground, and in the spring the rains rot and wash down the surface. The roots, lying near the surface, get this once, and a little, it is generally apparent to that which would have taken place without this cutting: So the only loss is the loss in the value of the aftermath.

Now for the other benefits on retarding the aftermath. We have seen fields cut so late that they were almost frozen when winter came, while others had a thick coat of aftermath. In the spring and through the summer the difference was plainly seen, and the part retaining the aftermath yielded the best crop. Snow alone is a protection. If not excessively deep, so as to smother, and if it lies till the return of the sun, it will be held in the highest condition for the horses to eat. The roots, lying near the surface, get this once, and a little, it is generally apparent to that which would have taken place without this cutting: So the only loss is the loss in the value of the aftermath.

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Some object to the heavy aftermath that follows some seasons with or without the aftermath. The roots of plants form their sustenance, and the snow is their protection, while the subsoil and other refuse furnish material for their root. Lack of protection may ruin a meadow or pasture, especially in not well drained. The value of the aftermath as a protection is equal to its value as a feed. If the grass is scant, from drought or other cause, for fall feed give corn stalks, clover, hay, roots, etc. It is in general better to commence winter feeding earlier than is usually done. Our stock are too much exposed to cold rains and wet fields—an evil that no good farmer will fail to avoid. If manure is needed, give it out in the fall.

Squash Seeds Fit for Pests.
A tiny foot tall, we test us as follows: In regard to squash being fatal to them—“Live in a sunken garden, keep a dozen hens for the eggs, and as grain has been scarce and high, this year fed them all the refuse from an east garden, among which were squashes in all stages of growth. I eat them so the seed were easily obtained. The fowls eat them readily and fail as far to see any ill effects from them.”—Entom. Home.

Good Exhibit.
We find in the *Poultry Bulletin*, for September, an account given by J. A. Parker, of the number of fowls sent to market by him since Jan. 1, 1847. His “reference to my books,” I find that, from Jan. 1, 1847 to Jan. 1, 1850, he sent to market 2,000 fowls, the average number of eggs sent yearly from my three farms has been over 20,000. Of the largest number of fowls above stated, a great number were very large, and were bred by me under my supervision.” Who of course can show an account anywhere like this statement?

Great Improvement of Animals.
The *Journal of Chemistry* recently says:—How strangely we overlook the uses of the liquid excrements of our animals! “A few hundred pounds of animal manure furnishes a manure for the earth, which is equal to two or three tons of the solid manure.” “A few hundred pounds of animal manure furnishes a manure for the earth, which is equal to two or three tons of the solid manure.”

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