

has assured me of the decided advantage experienced, both in regard to the quantity and quality of his crop. This advantage was proven by the growth of the article on land adjoining, and prepared with great care, in conformity with long established usage. When it is not well rotted, it is best to apply it to clover preceding the wheat crop which is to be sown.

I shall be able to publish some very valuable comparative facts on this subject during the present year, which will give much valuable practical information. I can now state, however, with full confidence, that unless this manure be *very thoroughly* decomposed it should never be ploughed in for wheat, as it will alter the *texture* of the soil and make it less productive for this crop. Wheat delights in a close compact soil:—stable and barn yard manure not well rotted, will make the soil porous, and thus injure it. For indian corn this objection does not hold good, and where the land intended for corn is stiff, it will derive benefit from this manure being ploughed in with the soil.

Besides affording all of the necessary food for plants, the straw, litter, &c., in this manure, during their decay, impregnate rain water with carbonic acid, which renders it a much more powerful solvent of all the minerals in a soil.

A great part of the good effects of green crops when used for manure, such as clover, peas, &c., is also due to this cause. Every substance capable of being rotted, when covering land, not only keeps the land moist by preventing the evaporation of water which falls, but it also furnishes to the water carbonic acid—and enables it to disintegrate and dissolve the particles of soil.

Besides this, clover, or anything else, when it rots, returns to the soil all of the constituents necessary to its own growth, which it had extracted. Upon these three causes, and none other, depend the action of this class of manures, and the efficacy of top-dressing.

To the barn yard, or compost *heap*, should be added scrapings from the woods, the contents of privies, (one of the most powerful of all manures,) and whatever the experience of farmers may have shown them to be valuable. A small quantity added daily, will, in the course of a season, make a very large heap, and more than ten times repay all the cost and labor of collecting it. *Dead animals should never be suffered to lie exposed in the air.* If a common sized horse or ox, when dead, be covered over with earth made moist with oil of vitriol, diluted with ten or twelve times its bulk of water, it will make enough manure to produce at least thirty bushels of wheat. The oil of vitriol will not only arrest the volatile compounds formed from the animal undergoing putrefaction, *but also cause them to be formed more quickly.* When the decomposition of the flesh of the animal is complete, the whole heap covering it should be dug down and applied to the land. If the bones be not dissolved, or decomposed, they should be put in some convenient place, to be dealt with as is directed under the head of bone dust.