

VERMONT FARMER.

AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR THE RURALISTS OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN STATE.

VOL. III.—NO. 9.

ST. JOHNSBURY, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1873.

WHOLE NO. 113.

Vermont Farmer

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CUMMINGS & HOSKINS.

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Correspondence.

For the VERMONT FARMER.
METEOROLOGICAL.

A Summary of Meteorological Observations
for the year 1872, at South Troy, Vt.

Mean temperature for the year, 41.39°.

Mean temperature for the year 1871,
43.38°.

Maximum temperature, (June 30,) 96.0°.

Minimum temperature, (Dec. 24,) -26.0°.

Range of thermometer from the highest
to the lowest point, 122.0°.

Range of thermometer from the highest
to the lowest point during the year 1871,
118.0°.

Amount of rain and melted snow during
1872, 37.27 inches.

Amount of rain and melted snow during
1871, 45.89 inches.

Amount of snow during 1872, 111.67 inches,
or 9 feet and 3.67 inches.

Amount of snow during 1871, 98.06 inches.

Two months of the year 1872 had exactly
the same amount of snow, that is 11.53
inches.

December of 1872 had more than twice as
much snow as January.

Number of days in 1872 during which rain
or snow fell, 163.

Mean force of winds since February, 1.64.

Mean amount of cloudiness since February,
4.96.

For the VERMONT FARMER.

MUCK vs. HORSE MANURE FOR
CORN.

A year ago last spring I had the handling
of a small farm which I had taken on
shares. The farm had been let and rented
for a long period, with the exception of two
or three years, and as is generally the case
with farms which have been intrusted to parties
whose only aim was to get the largest
return for the least outlay of time or money,
was pretty well "run out." I found but a
small quantity of manure on the place, and
how to use it to the best advantage was
a question more easily asked than answered.

When I came to plant my corn (about three-
fourths of an acre) I found that I had not
manure enough left to do justice. I used
it, however, liberally as far as it would go,
and then finished the piece with muck in the
hill. This muck had lain where it received
a small share of the barnyard soakings, but I
did not consider it much the better for that, and
did not expect much, if any, appreciable re-
sults from its use. I finished out the last
few rows with some muck which was rotted
a little, but which had received none of the
wash from the barnyard. The manure used
was principally from the horse-barn, with a
slight intermixture of cow and hog manure.

The season was rather cold and backward,
and the corn which was planted on the muck
came up ahead of that on the muck, and kept
its position for two or three weeks, while the
weather becoming warmer and more fa-
vorable for plant growth, the corn upon the
muck shot ahead of the other, and kept ahead
the rest of the season. The ears were more
numerous, larger, and better filled, and the
difference in the general appearance of the
corn was plainly noticeable to all who passed.

I intended to have measured the corn on
both parts of the piece, but one day when I
was away a neighbor's cattle broke in and
destroyed more corn than I had ever before
given such a number of bovines the credit of
being able to do in so short a time, and I
was thus saved the trouble. (N. B. The cattle
got in over the other man's part of the fence.)
I think the best generated by the
horse manure had the effect to modify the
coldness and backwardness of the season,
thus giving the corn a good early start. But
when steady warm weather set in, the manure
became so dry and useless it ceased to
give the plants any nourishment, while the
moisture kept up by the muck, and which
always is kept up where any considerable
quantity of it lies together, furnished the
tender corn with just the nutriment it needed.

I could not perceive any difference be-
tween the corn grown on the muck which had
received the barnyard washings and that
which had not. They were both good. This
trial convinced me that one of two things is
true:—Either horse manure does corn no
good in a hot dry season, or the muck is no
much better as to quite eclipse it in results
reaped.

W. H. W.

Barnston, P. Q., Jan. 18.

For the VERMONT FARMER.

REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY
SETTLERS.

A few traditions in connection with the
surveys of the town of St. Johnsbury may be
interesting to the readers of the FARMER:
At an early date Dr. Arnold, Squire White-
law, and others were making surveys in the
vicinity of Sleeper's River, then known as
West Branch. The provisions and equip-
ments of the company were left in charge of
Thomas Todd, who was instructed to keep
careful watch over the same, while the others
penetrated into the forest to finish their
surveys. Todd removed his effects from the
bushes to the river bank, and on the return
of the party was found rolled up against a
log asleep. "Henceforth," said Dr. Arnold,
"let the West Branch be known as Sleeper's
River;" and ever since that has been its name.

After the settlement, and before the or-
ganization of the town in 1790, all public
business was transacted in Proprietors' Meet-
ings, which were held at a private house in
the town. In the *Bennington Gazette*, Vol.
I, Nos. 1 and 2, we find an advertisement
signed by Isaac Tiebout, afterwards Governor
of the State, in which the proprietors of St.
Johnsbury are notified to meet on the eighth
of February, 1784, "for the purpose of choos-
ing a committee to complete the division of
lands then undivided in the town; to make
provision for erecting mills in the course of
the ensuing summer; to take measures for
the furtherance of settlement; and to trans-
act other business deemed necessary." It is

doubtful if this meeting was ever called to or-
der, and if it was no business of importance
was transacted, as no record of it can be
found. Another meeting was called in June
following. In the mean time Dr. Arnold
had removed to the township and erected a
house, as we infer from the town record on the
first page, of a meeting of the proprietors of
the town of St. Johnsbury held at the house
of Jonathan Arnold, Esq., in said town, on
the 18th day of June, 1784. Alex. Harvey,
Esq., was chosen moderator, and Joseph
Lord, Proprietors' Clerk. It was "voted that
the several rights in said township, (exclu-
sive of two lots, and one full right for build-
ing mills, and five public rights all which
are located and designated on plan,) be now
drafted for." Alex. Harvey, Joseph Har-
vey, and Eneas Stevens were directed to pre-
pare lots to be shuffled and drawn against
each proprietor's name. Daniel Caboon, Jr.,
and N. Trecoet, in the presence and under
the superintendence of the assembly made
the drafts of lots for each proprietor in the
order recorded on the proprietors' record
book. The one full right for building mills,
was located on the Passumpsic, at the most
available place for water-power, just above
the mouth of Moose River. This property,
including about 300 acres, was assigned to
Dr. Arnold, and during the spring of 1787
he put up a sawmill, and the following spring
erected a gristmill; these largely increased
the business and importance of the settle-
ment. These were the days when modern
Paddock's Village was known as Arnold's
Mills, and before the big moose which was
afterward victimized on the bank of the East
Branch had left to that dashing stream a
more historic name. The house of Dr. Ar-
nold was located in the woodland at the
northern extremity of the Plain and its erec-
tion began the settlement of the Plain.

Another incident is, perhaps worthy a
space in this connection. Dr. Arnold was
quarantined for the night with Eneas Steves-
on, of Burnet; in the course of the evening it
was determined with great unanimity of feel-
ing that their condition bore a forlorn resem-
blance to that of the old Romans before the
visit of the Sabines,—pioneers in a new set-
tlement and hopelessly destitute of wives.
Nothing could be done to remedy the matter
in this northern wilderness; an expedition
to Charleston No. 4, N. H., to spy out the
available daughters of the land, was plan-
ned, to take effect on the morrow. Arrived
at Charleston they called on Samuel Steves-
on, Esq., and made known their wishes.
After some consultation, an invitation was
sent to Cynthia Hastings and Sophia Groat,
requesting their company at tea, it being un-
derstood by the contrivers of the plot that
the two strangers from Vermont should ac-
company them back to their homes. In an-
ticipation of a possible emergency, Mrs.
Squire West was sent for to play the part
of umpire, should both gentlemen claim the
same lady. To tea time arrived; and so did
the unsuspecting maidens. When the hour
of departure arrived, Cynthia Hastings was
in double demand. The ladies still remained
in ignorance of the plot. Mrs. Squire West
was called for and constituted referee. She
decided that Miss Groat was fitted to be the
companion of a tiler of the soil, like Mr.
Stevens, while Miss Hastings would be a
more suitable mate for a professional man
like Dr. Arnold; this wise decision prevailed.

Before they separated that night the gen-
tlemen made known to the parties most con-
cerned the object of their visit to Charlestown.

Sophia suffered somewhat from paternal
opposition grounded on the fact that Stevens
was a tiler, and in consequence of her disobe-
dience to the paternal mandate she left the
ancestral domain with nothing but herself
and a cow.

The Dr., experiencing less difficulty in the
preliminary arrangements, went forward to
Rhode Island where he remained a few
days, and on his return to St. Johnsbury
was accompanied by the aforesaid Cynthia,
of Charleston. She became the mother of
Lemuel Hastings Arnold, who was born at
St. Johnsbury and educated at Providence,
R. I. He was Governor of Rhode Island
in 1841, a member of Congress in 1845
—47, and died at Kingston, June 27, 1852.

We learn from the political papers of that
State that Mr. Arnold met with opposition
while a candidate for Governor. During
the canvass, and in the heat of the election-
eering campaign, he was lustily accused of
the enormous crime of having been born in
Vermont. But whether a man should be
held accountable for being born in any par-
ticular age or country, or not, this kind of
accountability was hardly recognized by the
Green Mountain Boys, and does not appear
to have been sanctioned by the sons of Rhode
Island, for Mr. Arnold was elected by a de-
cided majority, and was an honor both to
the State of his birth and that of his adop-
tion.

Eneas Stevens' grandfather emigrated from
Barnet, England, to the State of Massachu-
setts, in 1685, and was one of the prop-
rietors of Barret, Vt. ALPHIA ALLYN,
Charleston, January, 1873.

For the VERMONT FARMER.

THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

BY HORTENSIS.

(Continued.)

Burning the Seeds of Weeds.

Dec. 13. The thrasher has just made its
yearly visit to our barn. I had the contents
of its seed-boxes carefully saved, and to-day
I have been burning the foul stuff, piled up
with a little straw, in the field back of the
barn. There was seed enough to cover the
whole farm with weeds, and nearly every
troublesome pest of the farm was represented
in the pile by millions. I confess I felt
an exultant satisfaction, as I poked over the
black, smouldering mass and heard the inces-
sant snapping of myriads of seeds. I incline

to think it is better to dispose of these seed-
ings in this way, than to suffer them to get
mixed through the manure heaps or scattered
over the barn-yard, where they will be car-
ried to the fields and sown broadcast with
the manure. Some farmers think they will
use this refuse from the grain, and destroy
the foul seed if they carry it to the gristmill,
but it is apt to contain some seeds which are
unwholesome food for stock, and is very sure
to contain some which the mill-stone will not
crush.

Storing Seeds.

Dec. 14. I have begun to pick up seeds
to have ready for next spring's use. From
this time till the buds swell I shall be in
frequent receipt of new and choice varieties of
fruits from many parts of the country. I
know of no material so good for preserving
these as fresh moss from the woods or
swamps. My method is to tie each kind in
a little bundle by itself, attaching to it a
strip of card with the name of the variety
written with a soft pencil, and then to spread
these on a layer of damp moss placed on the
earth-floor of the cool room of the cellar in
which I winter many of my half-hardy
plants. They are covered with another layer
of moss and a marble slab is laid upon the
whole. Here they incur no risk from drying
or from being scattered by rats. They re-
quire no attention during the winter, and I
can make additions to my store without the
least trouble, and here they are preserved in
the most perfect manner. If I do not get
them all put into the trees till June, I find
the buds scarcely swollen.

Moisture Favorable to Borers.

My neighbors complain that they never
know the borers so troublesome to their or-
chards as they have been the past season.
I presume they are correct,—I have learned
to think twice before contradicting a popular
notion,—and I think the fact is capable of
this explanation. The excessive moisture of
the past season favored the operations of the
young larvae. We all know that the moth-
er insect usually deposits her eggs close to
the ground; that if the cultivation has been
neglected, and green herbage hugs the
collar of the tree, that part will be found
even on the hottest days throughout the sum-
mer moist and cool, and that it is under such
circumstances that there is the most danger
from the pest. It has been observed also, that
if the trunk of a tree inclines to one side, as it
leaves the ground its shaded under side offers
the insect a favorite location. We have not-
iced too, that when the portion of bark con-
taining near its surface, young insects, has
been exposed to the sun and air they are
liable to get dried out, often hindering in
their work and growth, and sometimes suf-
fering death.

These facts tend to show that when the
damp covering the young insect and the
chips with which it surrounds itself are main-
tained in a moist condition, as has been the
case during the continuous rains of the past
summer