

# Colonial Farmer

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## Editorial.

### RENEW! RENEW!! RENEW!!!

A large number of subscriptions to the FARMER are now falling due. We hope our friends will not neglect to RENEW PROMPTLY, and thus prevent their papers from being discontinued. It only takes ONE DOLLAR. We have no Agent travelling this summer, so it will be necessary to forward the amount of subscription direct to this office. Register your letters and they will be at our risk. Please attend to the matter at once friends.

### To Correspondents.

We are obliged to our many friends for their words of cheer and letters of encouragement. We need them all. The independent course the FARMER has entered upon, we are glad to learn, has given general satisfaction. It is not the slave of party, nor the advocate of any particular class of men. The object of the FARMER is, in all its discussions on articles upon public matters, to let the people know how they are governed, rather than by whom they are governed. To make known, as best it can, whatever is wrong in the management of the business of the country, so that the people may know who to trust and who not to trust. This course we intend to follow, no matter who rules. Particularly is it our determination to watch over the Agricultural interests, and defend, if possible, the farmer from such legislation as is inimicable to his interests. We do not believe in the present one-handed machine that has usurped the control of the Agricultural interests to the exclusion of men of experience. Farmers should have a voice in all matters in which their interests are involved, and we hope the day is not far distant when a change for the better will be made in this respect.

### Ripening Too Fast.

The opinion of many farmers early last week was, that Grains of all kinds was ripening too fast, owing to the hot, dry weather, which continued without intermission for quite three weeks. Such weather has not been experienced in this latitude for many years, and those who came this way to escape the heated term in Boston, and elsewhere, were surprised to find that during the day time, at least, they suffered as much on account of warm weather, as if they had remained at home. It is not much to be wondered at then, that the idea should prevail that grains were maturing too quickly to be as valuable as could be desired. Fortunately, perhaps, a change has taken place in the weather. The showers that have fallen recently, introduced cooler days and nights, and the maturing of grains has been checked somewhat. It is said some fields are almost ready for the sickle, which is unusually early, but a close examination shows that, with the exception of one or two kinds, grain will be heavy, although as said last week, the straw, which with us is of considerable value, will be a little stouter than usual. This is no great matter, however, as in addition to a fair average hay crop, taking the Province together, there is also some hay on hand from last year's crop. The check in the perfecting of grains by the change of weather, will have an excellent effect, besides giving more time to get through haying. The rain has caused in some places grains to lodge but its effect upon the buckwheat and all other crops has been salutary. Our correspondents continue to give the most favorable accounts of growing crops. Although we thus write, we are aware that in some places the drouth has seriously affected the crops, and both Hay and Grain are by no means a satisfactory crop; but we are speaking of the crops as a whole, and not in reference to special localities.

### STANLEY.

Our correspondent writes—"Many farmers have gathered in their unusual large crops of hay, and a few that were forward in sowing grain, are now harvesting it. In the vicinity of Stanley, the report of crops is very encouraging. Hay appears to be very good everywhere. Oats bid fair to be a fine crop. Wheat, which hitherto has not been very largely sown in this quarter, looks exceedingly well. Buckwheat in some places looks poor, and the prospect of an average crop is, to say the least, doubtful. In other cases the crops will be a good one. Some farmers have wished for rain to help along the potatoes, but others appear thankful that the weather has been dry, which they claim has saved

the crops from disease. Potatoes however look well. "Farmers here do not seem to think it worth while trying to grow fruit, so I have nothing to say about apples, &c. It would certainly add to a farm house, I think, to have an orchard attached, as well as to the comforts and pleasure of the family."

### The Drouth.

While we have had a touch of warm weather, Massachusetts, Southern Vermont, and other States adjoining these have suffered most severely from drouth, and as a gentleman from one of these places expresses it, "we are most thoroughly dried up." The absence of rain and the great heat has badly damaged the crops, which with few, if any exceptions, are expected to be unusually short. There is no fear therefore, of our country produce reaching this fall an unprofitable figure, for if these States are going to have unusually short crops, a market is here presented which none are so able to enter as the farmers of New Brunswick. Hay in Massachusetts, some think, will be a total failure, and oats not more than half a crop. Our advices are not as reliable as we could wish, and although there may not be so much of a failure as reported, there are good grounds for believing that these Provinces must be looked to, in order to supply what is lacking. We hope shortly to be able to give a more correct statement of the crops in the adjoining States of the Union.

**CROPS AT FLORENCEVILLE.**—Our correspondent at Florenceville, under date of the 18th inst writes as follows: "We have had a splendid hay season, and the crop will be about an average one. Oats will be good. The rust has appeared amongst the potatoes, but as yet to no great extent. Buckwheat will hardly be up to the average. Corn and wheat, what little there is planted, looks well. Grain is ripening very rapidly."

### Correspondence.

#### Crops in Madawaska.

For the Colonial Farmer.  
MR. EDITOR,—I suppose you are equally anxious to hear how crops are in Madawaska, the last County set off but not the least. The former part of our haying season was very wet, scarcely a day without rain, from July 19th to the 31st, and from that time not one days rain, and as yet no likelihood of any. Our late buckwheat during the wet weather was considered a failure, but the last few hot days, going up to 96 in the shade at Little Falls, has jumped the late buckwheat up to challenge competition, and to make a long story short, this year there has been much more put into the ground in this upper county, than heretofore had been, and never before gave a greater yield. As far as the farmers say they have too much of it, and cannot take care of it in season. Notwithstanding the hard times you can hardly turn but you see a new barn or house to stare at, but here we are in a country filled to overflowing. Our wilderness lands taken to open up a Railway to relieve us of our products, and as soon as lands are secured, brother Jonathan must be accommodated, and let us wait, trusting to a corrupt Government to extend their time. But we cannot be completely fenced in, so long as our country can raise good horses to carry our stuff to Canada as usual, to the detriment of Fredericton and ourselves. The Americans will relieve the country of much stock this season as usual. Water falling fast.  
Yours truly,  
P. O. B.  
St. Leonard, Madawaska, Aug. 18th, 1876.

#### RURAL TOPICS.

##### THE MANURE PILE.

The farmer who does not feel a deep interest in the accumulation of manure is not to be found this side of the "Far West," as it is his bank from which he checks out his deposits that make his crops grow. But how to obtain a sufficient supply is the great question of the day. Commercial fertilizers cost a great deal of money, when extensively applied; and then often do not give satisfaction, especially in dry seasons. In brief, farmers must generally rely on their stable manure, which contains every constituent that crops require; and to obtain a good supply of this, all the live stock that farmers will profitably sustain should be kept, and every pound of their manure should be saved that possibly can be. Milch cows should be yarded at night, feeding them some green crop in their yard at evening, if their pastures be short, and early in the morning, as clover

in May or June, and sowed corn, or Hungarian grass later in the season. This grass or millet as it is sometimes called, may be sown any time from May 15th to July 15th, and it makes excellent green food for stock. Three pecks of seed to the acre is enough for green feeding, and a half a bushel for hay, when sown about June 1st. The manure of the yarded stock should be gathered every morning, and thrown in a broad heap, kept flat on the top to receive rains; and then every few days throw on layers of weeds, refuse straw, or anything found upon the farm that will decompose and make manure. Frequently a field is covered with tall weeds; cut them with your mowing machine before the seeds ripen, and draw them to your compost heap, putting on a layer as often as you can gather a layer of cow dung. Slaked lime will hasten decomposition; but plaster will be of no particular benefit where there is much matter to be decomposed. Ashes also had better not be used in such a compost. Salt may be put on it—what you have from your meat barrels that has been used; but it will not pay to buy salt at its market value to use on land in any manner. Farmers must increase the number of their cows, in order to increase their supply of manure; and see that you obtain, or raise, only good ones, as poor animals are not profitable.

##### A CHEAP ICE HOUSE.

No farmer should be without an ice house, because it is absolutely necessary in every family to preserve fresh meat and other things in the summer season. I once knew a farmer who drew a few tons of ice in large square cakes, and packed them up upon a few rails near his house, to keep the ice from the ground, with a bed of straw between and upon the rails. After the ice had reached a height of about eight feet, with a diameter of ten feet, he covered it two feet thick with straw, top and sides, and then set some boards up so as to shade the ice, and carry off the rains; and that ice kept till September. This shows that ice will keep well above ground. Build a cheap house for it about 14 feet square, with the door on the north side; lay down old rails, or anything to keep the ice off the ground, pack in sawed cakes, leaving 18 inches of space between the ice and the sides of the house to be filled with straw firmly packed down. The door should be in two parts, each about five feet long, the upper one to be used till the ice gets below the top of the lower one. Between new and January is the time to build your ice house. I know of no advantage in having ice houses under ground.

##### HAY CAPS.

The best time to make hay caps is from now to November, as farmers have more leisure than earlier in the season, and they must be made in good drying weather. The following is the manner of making very superior caps, as practiced by an Indiana farmer: He takes one-fourth ounce of yellow soap to a gallon of rain water, boil and skim, and then soak the muslin in this for 24 hours; take out and parly dry, and when half dry put the muslin in a solution composed of two ounces of alum and one of sugar of lead to each gallon of water. Soak the muslin well in this and hang it up to dry. He says it will make it both fire and water-proof. The caps he cuts one and one-fourth yards long, which makes them square, and after hemming the ends attaches cords to them to fasten them about the hay or wheat cock. One hundred caps will answer for ten acres of grass, and they will last for years. A good many farmers do not use hay caps; but when a supply is obtained and used a few times no farmer will object to them, as they often pay for themselves ten times in a season in saving hay from getting wet.

##### HINTS TO DAIRYMEN.

A correspondent of the American Greaser says: "Makers and shippers should be careful and pack butter uniform in color, and should particularly remember that streaked lots, no matter how sweet and choice, cannot be brought into competition with lots running uniform in color; the latter always commanding a much quicker sale at a far premium, and in every way compensating makers and dealers for their extra labor and care. Another fault is that a large portion of the butter during the hot weather turns sour and rancid very suddenly, sometimes before being received, although it may have left in good and sweet condition from whence it was sent. This fault lies with the makers to remedy to some extent; for instance, the cream may have stood too long, or not worked sufficiently to take out the buttermilk, while another fault would be in not properly salting.

These minor points, although trifling at first, are more noticeable after they have gone through second hands and finally reached other markets. The packing and package used are, however, of no secondary account in the matter of realizing the best market prices, and during hot weather particularly, should shippers be especially careful in regard to packages. Tubs, pails and firkins should be used exclusively, but in this some discrimination is required. Oak firkins and tubs are taken in preference to others on account of their neater appearance, though some parties use home-made tubs, which they claim answer their purpose. Another reason why these packages are becoming more in favor on the part of dealers is the fact that they sell more readily to shippers, and parties can also more readily agree on fare if a certain kind of tub is used to which they are accustomed. Therefore I recommend tubs, pails and firkins as the most desirable and, in the end, the most economical packages used. Parties should be careful to soak their packages well before using. In butter making always use the best salt. Parties should be careful to pack their butter solid, completely filling the packages, and to spread a piece of clean new bleached cotton over it dipped in brine, neatly tucked in at the edges so when moved it will not damage the appearance. Knowing that these instructions are old to few but new to many, I offer them for the purpose of having uniformity in trade as well as in packing.

### Miscellaneous.

#### A Good Gate.

There are many ways to make a good gate. I send you a description of one I made which has been in use ten years or more, and it is yet sound and strong. Anybody can build it with a little help from the blacksmith. The main post to which the gate is hung, is 8 inches square and firmly set in the ground. The other post may be lighter. Oak or red cedar is good enough. For a door yard gate the posts may be smaller, and at the gate not so long as those used in the field where loads of hay are to pass through; 10½ or 11 feet for field and 9½ to 10 feet for carriage way roads is wide enough. For the frame cut the end pieces 3 or 4 inches square and 4 feet long of almost any kind of sound wood; pine is good enough. The bars are 2½ by 4 inches, framed into end pieces, with an inch mortice and tenon, and pinned with half inch pins. The pickets are 1 by 3 inches for a field gate, or 1 by 2 inches for smaller gates, and securely nailed on the bars. The hooks used in hanging the gate should be ¾ inch square, passing through main post, and secured with screw and nut. For the braze use an iron rod ½ inch in diameter, with an eye to hook on the upper hook in front. Pass this braze entirely through the heel post of the frame, bend it down to near the bottom on the other end of the gate, passing through the end of the other post or frame, and secure it by screw and nut with a washer, as at that place much of the weight of the gate rests. At the bottom hinge use a common eye with washer in heel post of frame.

When shut, the end post of the frame of the bottom rests on what I call a "shoe" or piece of thick plank spiked on the foot of the post near the ground, and on which the gate rests when closed. Into the frame post drive a staple on each side; into the post drive two staples, with a hook in each from four to six inches long. The gate thus opens each way, and as it rests on the wooden support at the bottom, where a slight notch is made for the frame post to rest in, there is no sagging or getting out of place by the wind. In any case the gate cannot sag except very slightly, as the iron rod is sufficient to hold all in place. Either one of the hooks at the top keeps the gate in place. A gate of this kind requires less work to keep clear of snow drifts than any other that swings horizontally, as there is no bottom board at the bottom of the pickets.—Country Gentleman.

#### Something worth Knowing.

It requires ten or twelve acres of land to support one person on food alone; for one acre employed in feeding cattle only produces eight or ten ounces per day, and it requires from five to ten pounds of flesh a day to support one man if he lives on flesh alone. The quantity of land required to keep one ox will produce an abundant supply of vegetable food for at least four persons. One acre of wheat, barley, oats, or corn, will support two or three persons; one of potatoes or yams, enough nourishment for nine persons; and Humboldt estimates that an acre planted with bananas is sufficient to support fifty men.

### Potato Planting in Autumn.

In our number for May 22 last, we drew attention to M. Telliez's method of planting potatoes in the early autumn, and protecting them by straw from the cold of winter, by which means he succeeds in obtaining good crops of healthy potatoes by the beginning of the following spring. This system was adopted last year, as an experiment only, by M. Tourniol, President of the Horticultural and Botanical Society of Limoges, who communicates the results in a long letter to the *Revue Horticole*, from which we take the following remarks:—"The seed potatoes were selected from a quantity gathered in April, 1875, and were stored on shelves in a garret until towards the end of August, when the planting out was proceeded with. The workman called upon to assist in this operation did so with many broad grins and much shoulder-shrugging, while the neighbours made merry by describing M. Tourniol as a most fitting resident for the locality, the point of which rather obscure witticism lies in the fact that his property adjoins an extensive lunatic asylum. In two months the plants had made stalk rapidly, when M. Tourniol was obliged to absent himself from home for a time. On returning about the first week in November, he found that his orders to tend the crop and cover it over with straw had been entirely disregarded—a not a leaf was to be seen, the cold and the snails had destroyed everything above ground. Nevertheless, on digging up the soil, it was found that the experiment, despite the adverse circumstances under which it had been conducted owing to this neglect, had been a complete success. The first turn of the fork uncovered ten healthy potatoes, varying in size from a walnut to a hen's egg. M. Tourniol was triumphant, and his self-satisfied workman proportionately abashed. This year he commenced operations on the 1st of June, and intends to plant out every fortnight till the end of September. We hope to be able to announce, in due time, that satisfactory results have been obtained.—English Farmer.

### Ignorance in Farming.

One of the greatest drawbacks to successful farming is the presence of the unknown quantity—ignorance of the exact condition of things, in value, weight and measure, concerning our products. We often produce at a loss. An account with each crop would decide the matter. If after a few trials it cost more to produce than a crop will sell for its cultivation should be abandoned. Many continue to produce from year to year at a loss, simply from the want of a little calculation. The unknown quantity in weight and measure subjects us to great loss in buying and selling. A stack of hay came to my notice recently. The seller estimated that it would weigh a ton and a half. The buyer preferred to buy by weight. It weighed 1,850 pounds, quite a difference in favor of the buyer. There is no doubt that a great deal of hay changed hands every year on a basis no nearer the truth than this. Loss enough is soon made in this way to put in and maintain a hay stack, even in a small neighborhood. The same thing is true in regard to live stock. Dealers can judge much more accurately than farmers, and are much less liable to be cheated. Farmers are much more liable to fall in buying than in selling. If we pay too much in buying, it makes an up-hill business all the way through. This is one great cause why many fail to make anything in feeding and handling stock. From considerable experience in weighing stock for others, I have found that the greater part fall short in weight from the estimate of the owners; some come very far short. Not more than five per cent. exceeds the estimates. Horses estimated at 1,100 pounds generally weigh about 1,000. Loads of hay called a ton quite often weigh only 1,200 or 1,500 pounds. Those who estimate the number of tons by the number of loads are often very much deceived, and in selling think they have been cheated, because the scales failed to show as much as they expected. Weighing will remedy this. The pound avoirdupois is a known quantity; after ascertaining the exact number, we are in a condition to go forward without making mistakes in our calculations.

Another unknown quantity is in failure to know the number of acres under cultivation. A farm which had been taken up when the country was new, and occupied by five successive generations of the same family, had a twenty-acre lot. On the death of the first member of the family the farm was sold. The twenty-acre lot contained but fourteen acres

by actual measurement. Here were five generations of heroic workers devalued in the amount of work actually done, all the while supposing that they were cultivating six acres more than there really was. If the yield came up to what the increase acreage should produce, it did not matter so much. But the probability is that they were as far from the truth in the yield as in the acreage. I once bought a tract of salt marsh, said to contain six acres. The surveyor made less than four acres, much to the disgust of the seller, and to the detriment of the reputation of persons who had gained a local notoriety for big days' work done there. Traditional "big days' works" often owe their existence more to some errors in calculation than to the amount of work really done. There is uncertainty enough attending the business of farming, from unfavorable seasons, and cause over which we have no control, without being subjected to loss in those we can remedy. We suffer loss in buying and paying for what we do not get; by selling what we do not get pay for, and in many other ways in which the unknown quantity affects us unfavorably. We should endeavor, where it is in our power, to eliminate it from our business.—Country Gentleman.

### Decrease of Dairy Production in England.

In an abstract of a letter from J. P. Sheldon, of Derbyshire, England, in Moore's Rural, there appears the following, regarding the decrease of production in England: Mr. Sheldon refers to what is undoubtedly a fact, in regard to a decrease in the production of cheese and butter in England. He says the consumption of milk in the towns and cities, with the increased facilities for transportations, is constantly making inroads on the cheese and butter dairies of the kingdom, and so rapid is the increase in the consumption of fresh milk that the time is not far distant when cheese and butter will only be made in considerable quantities in outlying districts, and hence the great bulk of these productions needed in England must be supplied from America and other countries. To this may also be added another element to decrease dairy productions; the meat supply, which is becoming more and more difficult, and which, on account of the high prices, is holding out better inducements to the farmer than dairying. It will be seen from what we have said that our dairy interests are not likely to be unfavorably affected by anything that may be done in England, but, on the other hand, larger and larger quantities of cheese from year to year will be demanded. Let us increase our knowledge of handling milk and manufacturing; let us do everything that is reasonable for the improvement of our dairy products, depending on that for success, rather than bewailing the spread of intelligence or in the endeavor to confine the dairy industry within certain prescribed and narrow limits. As England is our best foreign customer, it will be important for our dairymen to keep well informed in regard to the progress of the dairy in that country—to keep watch of everything the English may do which would be likely to affect the dairy industry of America.

### A Hint about Composts.

No amount of experiments, talk, and large results will draw farmers in a body away from keeping live stock, and the manure pile, and turn them wholly to "chemical farming." The compost heap will still be an adjunct to the prosperous farmer's barn-yard; nor would we have it otherwise. There is a great deal of unnecessary work expended upon this plant food factory, however, in repeated shoveling to prevent overheating. Thorough mixing and proper pulverization are of course essential; beyond that, the work spent in shoveling is thrown away. "Heating" is the oxidation by oxygen of the air of various substances in the compost, and it is necessary, to a certain extent, for the decomposition of the coarse materials. Overheating is usually checked by frequent stirring. But this only checks it for a time, and afterwards, by the increased access of atmospheric oxygen, the heating (oxidation) is accelerated. A better way is to pack the surface down solidly, by simply treading upon the heap with the feet, (after pulverization) or still better to spread a little earth over the pile, taking care to compact it somewhat. Either method tends to exclude air, and thus prevents too rapid oxidation. Adopting this practice so far so advisable, a large proportion of the expense in making compost may be avoided.—Scientific Farmer.

### Orchard Grass.

Of all the grasses that have been fairly tested, orchard grass, no doubt, is the best. But it requires the circumstances peculiar to it to make it this. And the principal requirements is a rich soil; this is indispensable. You can grow timothy on moderately rich land, and quite well if the land is a lay loam. So you can red top and many other grasses. But to attempt to do this with orchard grass is simply to fail, as not a few know to their sorrow. There must be a rich soil, and if deeply rich all the better. The plant wants something to luxuriate in, that is its nature. It will then repay the outlay, and with greater profit than can be obtained perhaps through any of the other grasses.

Before proceeding to give the advantages in detail, I will state the second peculiarity of the grass: It is the necessity of close sowing; this results from its great force of growth and makes it appear in stools or tufts, and scattered, produces an uneven surface. It will do this even with another grass or clover between. The point is to join these tufts, and this can be done only by close, even sowing. This accomplished on an even, mellow seed-bed, requiring about three bushel per acre, there will be an immediate growth, not tardy, as with the other grasses, taking the whole summer to grow the crop put out in the spring, but rapidly advancing, and growing, instead of one crop, two good cuttings, with a good growth of aftermath, followed the next year by two additional crops, three to four in all during the season. And the crops are mostly aftermath, composed of the long leaves of the plant, easily cured and gathered. And it is necessary to gather it in this way, for if permitted to grow up and mature the stalk will be hard and unfit for feed—worse than ripe clover or timothy hay. The growth of this grass, with a proper soil, is about an inch a day. This growth continues whatever the weather may be, whether rainy or a drouth; but its many fine long roots penetrate deep, and the thick growth, tuft against tuft, is a guard against the fierce rays of the sun. The growth is not only fast, but early, not surpassed if equaled by any other forage plant, providing the winter has not been too severe; for this plant, though it grows late also, keeping up a bright green till quite into the winter, needs protection from the severe winds. I have observed this to be invariably the case, marking it in the same field, and in different fields, and in all seasons. Snow is a perfect protection for it if it remains during the winter. In such cases I have known this grass to remain green during the winter when there was little or no frost in the ground, and in the spring shoot up at once as by magic, seeming to thrive under unfavorable weather. But there is this also in favor—another peculiarity—that, though it seems to be destroyed, there is still left sufficient vitality to bring it forward, and make it still the equal of most of the grasses at the start, and soon after outstrip them all. The hurt is with the tuft above ground; the rest of the plant is all safe, and I have not known a case where the frost has lifted it from its place, which is a great point gained in this heaving climate of ours. It is thus proof against frost and drouth—two advantages that I need not say are of the first importance.

### AS A PASTURE GRASS.

I have thus far spoken of this plant as furnishing hay. It is equally good or better for grass. This is owing to its rapid growth, keeping the field constantly green with fresh succulent growths which in a drouth is so desirable, and so unusual. The blade is somewhat coarse when kept down by grazing, giving it a water-grass appearance, in this respect it is surpassed by June grass and other finer and less rapid growing sorts, which have time to take the color of the sun. Left, however, to grow, nothing can be finer than the long bending blades of this grass, having a dark, shiny hue, the leaves often over two feet in length; and it is this which makes a winter feed that is perhaps unsurpassed in nutrition, ranking among the best, and is highly relished by stock, giving also a nice flavor to the dairy product; hence an excellent feed for milch cows late in the fall and early winter, as well as at the commencement of the butter season early in the spring. When, with all this, its productiveness is considered, it will be clear what a dairy grass this is, not only for New York, but its range I believe extends over the whole country. The farmers of the old dairy regions have improved their lands by grazing, and with a little pains of further enriching their lands, in a condition to grow this grass, and secure fields of perennial growth and richness.—Utica Herald.

### Oats by Weight.

A French chemist, Mr. Grandenr, has been analyzing a number of samples of oats to determine whether those of light weight are of equal value, pound for pound, to those that weigh heavier in proportion to measure. The result showed, in fact, that the composition of light and heavy oats of various kinds when taken in bulk is almost identical. There were, however, individual cases in which considerable differences were found to exist—notably one in which the lightest specimen out of the 26 that were tested, showed a higher nutritive value in proportion to weight than either of the others.

As confirming the general conclusion above stated, it is also mentioned that a French postal contractor has tried a similar experiment, in a practical way. Selecting out of 300 horses in his stable, two teams of twelve each, in all respects alike, and undergoing precisely the same work, one team was fed for six months on the lightest oats that could be procured, weighing 77 lbs. per hectolitre; and the other, for the same time, on the heaviest obtainable, each hectolitre of which weighed 117 lbs. At the end of the period of observation no difference could be detected in the appearance of the two teams, the horses being all in excellent condition, and good working order. The oats of course, were fed by weight and not by measure; and the conclusion we reach is therefore that weight and not measure, should be the standard by which they are bought and sold.—Country Gentleman.

### The New Remedy for Currant Worms.

Dr. W. L. Thompson of this city has just called our attention to the value of copperas as a remedy for the currant worm—although the remedy is not a new one with him, nor does he know to whom the credit of the discovery belongs. On visiting his grounds, we found that the worms on gooseberry bushes (from which the leaves had been almost completely stripped) were as "dead as a door nail," from a single application of strong copperas water—about one-fourth of a pound of copperas dissolved in a gallon of water. The bushes would, in a day or two longer, have been completely stripped of every leaf by these "varmints," had not the application arrested their work of destruction. It was equally as effectual on currant bushes, although they were not so badly attacked as the gooseberries. Dr. Thompson regards the copperas solution as effectual as the hellebore wash so often recommended, besides being less objectionable, and at the same time far cheaper. During his practice last summer he had three or four cases of sickness in children which he thinks could be directly traced to their being poisoned from eating currants, to the bushes on which they grow white hellebore had been applied.—Maine Farmer.

### The Biggest Hog in the world.

The famous hog owned by Mr. Wm. Bush, of Monroe, and celebrated as the largest porker ever known in these parts, passed through the city, Tuesday last, in charge of its owner, on the way to Philadelphia, the seat of the great Centennial celebration. It is of a black and white color, and is a cross of the China and Poland. It is five years old; was born in this (Marion) county, on the farm of Mr. Joseph Pond. It measures seven feet and four inches in length, half thirty inches across the back, girth nine feet and weighs 1,540 pounds. It has been fed principally on milk, with small quantities of corn occasionally to give solidity to the flesh, and shows that no particular pains have been taken to give it an artificial appearance. Its hair is rough, its skin and flesh rough and thick with dandruff, and it is by no means a thing of beauty. Still it is claimed that it is the largest hog on the globe. Mr. Bush proposes to exhibit it as a special curiosity of American production, at the Centennial.—Palmira (Mo.) Spectator.

**VERMIN ON FOWLS.**—The *Fancier's Gazette* speaks as follows: A very important duty of the poultry breeder is to see that his chicks are free from vermin. Sprinkle sulphur continually over the chickens, roosts, and houses, the latter two occasionally washed with kerosene. If you find the slightest symptoms of the presence of vermin, get rid of them immediately. Sometimes careless breeders will lose whole sets of eggs simply by not occasionally sprinkling the hens and nests with sulphur, or other good insect powder, and the poor birds, unable to stand the dreadful pests, have forgotten their nests. A careful breeder will never allow the source of flies among his poultry to trouble him, but will see that he "has no e of it."—California Agriculturist.