

# THE GLEANER.

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*Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster vilior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes.*

No. 12.

Miramichi, Saturday Afternoon, December 23, 1844.

## Agricultural Journal.

From the Fredericton Farmer's Manual.  
REPORT  
of the Sunbury Agricultural Society for 1844.

In coming before the Society with our third Annual Report, we still find reason to complain of a want of more general interest and support from the whole County, and we necessarily feel the want of a great market town, like Fredericton or Saint John for our Shire Town, where independence and numerical influence would not fail to give effect to our exertions.

We are again under renewed obligations to render our grateful thanks to the Almighty for another fruitful season and remarkably fine weather for securing the Hay and Grain crops, which have never been more abundant or better secured.

How far our Society's efforts have been instrumental in producing an abundance we submit to those to decide who have most carefully investigated the subject.

Considering the very great depression in the farmers' markets of Fredericton and Saint John, it is rather a matter of surprise that so great a surplus is produced to be slighted by such ungrateful consumers.

The price of fresh meat in our market bears no proportion to that of other provisions as compared with other countries, and the misguided policy of our traders in giving a preference to foreign produce should induce our farmers to barter their Beef and Pork rather than to send it fresh to market, and thereby prevent such large importations from the United States.

A small experiment has this season been made in raising Broom Corn, which although failing in part in consequence of an attack of grub-worms, and also the badness of the seed, yet has proved that it is not more difficult to raise than other corn; and since the brooms are well manufactured in this Province, it will be as imprudent to import American Brooms in future as it has been to import Hay from New York, because they had a peculiar method of screwing it into very nice bundles.

The experiment of sowing wheat on very poor land, and covering it with straw has also been repeated this season, and as far as we have learned with good effect.

Our articles of domestic manufacture are of a respectable description, and our implements of husbandry are such as to render manual labor very light in comparison with that of former years.

The appearance of the Weevil in our Wheat in August caused some alarm, but its stay was transitory, and the damage sustained by it in this County is generally reported to be very small.

The great importance of Agriculture does not seem to be understood by some whose selfish views stimulate them to clinch fast all they can procure rather than risk the broadcast seed upon a fertile soil exposed to all the chances of an uncertain season.

The result of the various pursuits, occupations and speculations of the inhabitants of this Province for the last twenty years have been decidedly in favor of Agriculture.

Many have doubted the well authenticated reports of the Flemish farmers success in his profession; but we have the satisfaction to see in this County a man commencing on a poor piece of upland, and making it fertile and productive from its own resources; while on the other hand we see others commencing on a rich soil and making it very poor by judicious management.

It is very pleasing to observe an increasing attention to draining and improving farms; but much remains still to be effected—for within two miles of this fertile spot on which we now stand there is more than one thousand acres of valuable alluvial yet unreclaimed; and this is not a solitary case—many such unreclaimed tracts may be found throughout the county.

The importance of inviting capitalists into this fertile County, where capital may be most profitably invested, should engage the attention of the friends of Agriculture and improvement; and the great importance of giving encouragement to mechanics and labourers ought not to be lost sight of.

Great complaints have been made that this Society does not import an improved breed of Stock, while those who complain most, do the least towards enabling us to do so.

The low price of Beef and the number of our importations of Neat Cattle; but scarcity of good horses in the market and the large sums paid for them annually from the United States and Nova Scotia, renders the subject worthy consideration whether this Society had not better import a good Canadian Entire-Horse.

We have found the English Dray Horse too inactive for our ordinary business, and the Race Horse too delicate; but both the Coach Horse and Hunter very useful. But it is every where evident that too little pains are taken to bring the animals to perfection. The best animals being generally purchased for early use instead of their being retained by the farmers to improve their Stock.

At the Cattle Show and Fair held at McLean's in Manguerville, the following persons had Premiums awarded them for the following Stock, &c., viz. —

To T. O. Miles, Esq., for the best Bull; John Duffy, second best do.; Stephen Burdy, third do.; Arch, McLean for the best Cow; T. O. Miles Esq., second do.; Mr. Sterling, third do.; C. L. Hatheway, for the best Ram; Isaac Burbo, second do.; John Duffy, for the best Boar; A. McLean, second do.; and to R. Cowperthwaite, for the best Home-spun Cloth; Stephen Estabrooks, second ditto.

C. L. HATHEWAY, Secretary,

Manguerville, Oct. 8, 1843.

N. B.—Further premiums for produce, &c., to be awarded on the last Saturday in December.

### PLANTING TREES.

Reader, have you not some vacant spot in your orchard, some nook in your garden, some unplanted road-side, unoccupied place in your yard, where some trees might be planted to advantage? Look around and see if there is not room for some, or perhaps many, of the kinds useful for timber, or their fruit, or ornamental purposes. It is possible you attended to this matter fully last spring, but the chances are that you will, on examination, find room for more trees. If so, now is a very good time to supply the deficiency; not so good, perhaps, as the spring would have been, but too good to be allowed to pass without improvement. Trees may be transplanted at any time after the growth of the season is over, with perfect safety, and they may be removed at any time, if the fine roots are undisturbed, and during removal retain their hold on the earth. When trees are transplanted in the fall, it is necessary to guard against two dangers to which spring planted ones are not so much exposed. The first of these is, they are apt to become loose in the ground from the action of the winds, as the roots do not take hold of the soil as quickly in the fall as in the spring; and the second is, water is apt to settle in the holes dug, and expose the roots to the injurious action of stagnant water. To prevent the first, if the tree is small, let a stake be well set in the ground, to which the tree, wound with bass matting, cloth, or something to prevent rubbing, may be securely fastened. If large, and the roots spreading, three sticks placed in a triangular form around the stem, and well fastened down at each angle by wooden hooks driven into the ground, will usually keep the tree in its place. If the soil is tenacious, and there is danger of the holes, when the tree is put in them, becoming pits of stagnant water, drains must be made to them which will prevent the evil at once. Where a number of trees are to be set on such a soil, it will be much benefited by a thorough deep plowing, which will render the soil generally more pervious

to water, and prevent its ready accumulation.

### MANAGEMENT OF THE HORSE.

This noble animal is an indispensable servant and companion of the farmer. He ploughs, he harrows, he carts over the farm. He goes to market, to mill, and to meeting; he also accompanies his master to election frolics, political gatherings, and winter sleigh rides, and his company is as much sought after, at such times, as the orator's or the fidler's.

The horse is more often abused than any of our domestic brutes. He is too generous to spare his limbs or his wind when we are in haste, and his generous ambition too often causes his ruin.

On the farm, however, the horse is not so generally over driven as on the highway, when we attempt to outstrip the wind, and leave steam engines behind. It is fast driving and subsequent neglect that bring on sprained joints, broken lungs and premature old age.

Horses that are worked on a farm and are well attended to will often be good in harness at 35 years of age; while those that travel in stages are not expected to last longer, on the average than six or seven years. They are then turned off to the farmer to serve in better business, or are sold to the tanner for what the skin is worth.

We have thrown out a few hints in a former number, on the subject of horse breaking. We hold that any horse, well broken, may be made to draw as surely as an ox. The horse requires different treatment because he knows more. And this circumstance makes it absolutely necessary that his driver should be wiser than the driver of an ox. We cannot vouch for the saying of the Irish "that a horse knows as much as a man according to his bigness." Still we conjecture that some horses have more understanding than some men have.

### How to treat Horses on a journey.

Much judgment is requisite to keep a horse in good trim on a long journey, and when your jaunt is but 20 miles it is worth your while to look well to your horse. The first step is to fit the horse for the journey. If he has been kept out at pasture he should be taken up and put to hay and grain for a number of days before starting. Hay and grain must be his food while he labors hard, but when you first commence giving grain you must limit the quantity. When he has become used to eating grain you can make that his principal food on a journey; and this you will find cheaper than any other food.

We have known farmers, of very good sense in other matters, act most absurdly in the management of a horse. They will give "dobbie" a mess of grain just before starting in the morning though he has not been used to eating it before. Just as if a half a peck of oats or corn, crammed down hastily, would aid him in his journey. Dobbie would perform much better through the day without a mouthful of grain. Even one that has been long used to it should never have his stomach stuffed full of it just before starting.

Your most hearty food should all be given at night unless you have ostlers on whom you can depend, to feed them two or 3 hours before morning; in such case a part of your grain may be given at night, soon after you stop, and the remainder two hours at least before you renew your journey.

We are aware that some over wise teamster will argue, that if you give your horse his grain at night he will eat no hay of consequence, and that you will throw away the money you pay for hay feeding. They therefore endeavor to stuff in as much hay as possible at first, and give the more palatable food for a dessert or stuffer. This is most unwise on two accounts—your horse needs his most hearty food soon after his day's work is over, and very hearty food hurts him when fed just before his work commences.

If the grain is given at night your horse soon eats enough to cloy him suffi-

ciently to induce sleep and rest; but if he must have poor picking for some hours after being put up, his time of sleep and rest is delayed; it may require the whole night, on fodder that he must pick over, to satisfy the craving of his appetite.

If you are used to travelling you know you cannot always be sure of the best of hay for your horse. In New York the Dutch tavern keeper advises you to feed with his latest cut hay. He argues that more heart is found in this than in what is cut while in full blossom. Well, give a knowing horse such hay, and he will stare you in the face and whinow for grain.

We have travelled much, and on long journeys—we have learned from long experience that grain must be our chief reliance for horse food—that the horse wants something substantial soon after being put up—that his grain then benefits him much more than at any other time, because he is then most in want of it, and because it then has time enough to digest and to go into the system.

The best mode is to rely chiefly on grain. One peck of good corn is equal to two pecks of oats, but as your hay may not be good, prefer turning down half a bushel of oats, before your horse soon after putting him up at night. He must have something to fill his stomach, and as the hay may be worthless your oats will answer for hay and grain too. Your horse will now soon eat as much as he wants—he will soon lie down to rest and to sleep; and before morning his grain will all be converted into good chyle and will be nourishing his blood. The next morning your horse will be ready to start before you wake up. Instead of waiting for him to eat a new mess of grain, and then to let it digest, you find him plump and good natured and asking for nothing but your company.

It is well known that horses are often ruined by eating grain at improper times. Farmers have fancied that eating it while the animal is hot with exercise is the principal cause of injury from grain; but it is not so. We have known many horses to die suddenly on eating grain, but never on account of eating it soon after stopping. It is rapid driving—violent exercise—soon after eating the most hearty kinds of food, that is so destructive to travelling horses. There is no more danger in giving a horse the most hearty food in ten minutes after he stops, than in giving a man his most hearty meal as soon as he quite mowing in a hot day.

Let any one consult his own feelings and he may rid himself of the delusion that eating after violent exercise injures him more than at other times. It is violent exercise immediately after eating, before the food has had time to change, that deranges the whole system and causes death. If any traveller objects to the cost of feeding on grain while on a journey, we answer that you pay no more for half a bushel of oats than for half a peck—for if you order half a bushel you buy at wholesale, and your landlord will charge you nothing for the hay. Suppose you pay double the wholesale price for oats, your horse keeping is then but fifty cents, in any country town in New England. And if you call for half a peck of oats with hay you will find your bill not far short of that sum.

### Stage Horses.

These may be kept in a different manner from those that are on long journeys. They are always kept at home, and their tender have leisure enough to prepare their food for them.

Grain is the principal food of stage horses, but it is found economical to mix up cheap substances with it to distend the stomach and to keep the horse in health. Cut straw, or cheap hay, mixed with Indian meal is found to be excellent food for hard laboring horses; and as drivers have leisure enough to prepare it, this has now become the common food of such teams.

Thirty years ago it was the practice of drivers to give their horses meal and water on stopping for a few minutes to take breath. In hot weather it was no uncommon case to see a horse drop sud-