

THE GLEANER.

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COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

New Series, Vol. II.

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

No. 14.

Miramichi, Wednesday Morning, January 10, 1844.

General Agency and Commission Office,

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N. B.—Parents sending home their children for education, may with confidence entrust them to the care of Mr. Simmonds.

Reference may be made in Miramichi to the Editor of the Gleaner.

Presents for the Holy Days

The Subscriber has just received the following BOOKS, all of which, (the last three excepted) have been placed on the supplemental catalogue of the *The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*. They will be sold for READY MONEY only:—

- Conversations of a Father with his children, 2 vols, 6s 6d.
- Wild Animals, by Mary Roberts, 3s 8d.
- Domesticated Animals, by the same, 3s 8d.
- George Herbert's Poems, with Life of the author, by Isaac Walton, 4s 6d.
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- The Deaf and Dumb Boy, by Reverend W. Pletcher, 2s 9d.
- Collins of Sacred History, 3s 6d.
- Memoirs of the Marchioness de la Rochejaquelein, 3s 10d.
- Three Weeks in Palestine and Lebanon, 3s 10d.
- The House I live in—"I am fearfully and wonderfully made," 2s 8d.
- The Instructor—containing Tales and Conversations—Furniture, Food, &c.—Lessons on the Universe—Months and seasons—Descriptive Geography—Ancient History—Modern History—7 vols, good & neat, 15s.
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- Travels in South East Asia, 2s.
- Voyages in South West Asia, 2s.
- Voyages in Pacific Ocean, 2s.
- The McEllen Family, 1s 6d.
- The Story of Grace Harriett, 10d.
- Commentary upon the Holy Bible, neat, 6 vols, 5 vols, 2l. 3s.

The whole of the above are neatly got up, and ornamented with engravings.
JAMES JOHNSON.
Miramichi, December 13, 1842.

Agricultural Journal.

The following excellent article, we copy from the *Main Farmer*, the concluding paragraph of which we particularly recommend to a few Patrons of the Gleaner:—

WHAT I HAVE SEEN.—I have seen a farmer who devotes so much of his time and attention to the profitable business of holding up village posts and lazy-poles, that his own fences, for the want of a small share of his time and a very little assistance, have fallen to the ground.

I have seen a farmer who was so prodigally selfish and stingy, that he cut down and destroyed all his best fruit-trees, which bore most delicious fruit, just because some roguish boys occasionally "hooked" a small quantity of the fruit—thereby depriving himself and family of a great luxury, to punish a few "small rascals."

I have seen a practical, scientific farmer, produce large and good crops of grain, keeps first rate cows, makes the very best quality of butter and cheese, but who has a singular idea and practice in the way of rearing porkers, preferring a large number rather than a large size, and seldom, if ever, rears one that will weigh over two hundred pounds. One of his neighbours tells the following story, probably in ridicule, in relation to these pigs. He says that this gentleman's flocks of swine were accidentally left out in the hog-yard over night, and that before morning they were entirely covered over with snow, so that not one of them could be seen; and that the only process by which they could be found and caught, was by scraping the snow into a heap, and then running it through a coarse sieve, the most of the pigs being too large to pass through the meshes.

I have seen a young farmer, commencing life under most propitious circumstances, having a new house erected and his farm well stocked by a kind and aged father, with a lovely, industrious, economical and intelligent wife, residing within a few miles of a pleasant village and numerous relatives and friends, and yet in less than ten years, by sheer negligence, idleness, consummate and unpardonable laziness, he ran out all his property, and was obliged to quit the farm and go to a neighbouring State, and there work out by the day to gain a livelihood.

I have seen a young mechanic bid farewell to the shop, run in debt for 75 or 100 acres of land, a few acres only under cultivation, and in six years, by persevering and untiring industry, rigorous economy and very little assistance from his father, he built himself a small but neat cottage, a medium sized barn, reared a small stock of cattle, paid for the most if not all the land, is clear from debt, and the best of the joke is, a few weeks since he married a blooming, blushing, healthy, rosy-cheeked damsel, and a farmer's daughter too. He knew where to go for a good wife!

I have seen a farmer who was so fearful that his scythes, sickles, and hoes would become rusty, that he always hung them in an apple-tree, exposed to rain and sunshine; and for

the same good and consistent reason, left his ploughs, harrows, chains, axes, &c., out in the open air.

I have seen a farmer who was and is so generous, open-hearted, liberal, and uncommonly polite and good-natured, that he always has some half-dozen loafing, mean, contemptible, dis-interested "consins" or "friends," around him, eating at his bounteous and luxurious table, and drinking his rich wines and refreshing cider; and yet these scheming, cunning vagabonds, or walking pestilences in the shape of human beings, could not, would not raise a finger to ameliorate this man's condition, were he in trouble and distress.

I have seen farmers (and to their shame be it spoken) as well as persons of other classes, subscribe for, receive and read a newspaper for two or three years in succession, and when called upon by the printer to liquidate the debt thus incurred, inform him that they had not the means, and that they only took the "miserable sheet" to encourage him!

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF THE HORSE AND OX FOR FARM LABOUR.

—It has long been our impression that farmers made a serious mistake in their domestic economy, by substituting to so great an extent, horses for oxen, in performing the labour of their farms. We admit that a span of horses will do more in a given time than oxen; that to most farmers it is more pleasurable driving horses than oxen; and that for some kinds of business, such as carrying to market farm produce, the aid of horses is indispensable; yet after these admissions we still ask, is such a general substitution profitable?—for this is the standard by which a farmer should regulate his domestic and farming concerns. We think it is not; and shall give some reasons for our belief.

That a span of horses fit for labour, cost much more than cattle in the outset none will deny. When good oxen are worth eighty or eighty five dollars a yoke, a span of horses at the same comparative rate of value will cost from \$180 to \$200. The expenses of keeping a span of horses throughout the year in a condition fit for labour is much greater than that of keeping oxen in a like state; perhaps if the expense is estimated at one third more annually, it would not be below the truth. The expenditure required to fit out a span of horses, harness, &c. far exceeds that necessary for cattle, certainly four or five times as much. The danger of disabling or killing a horse is greater than that of injuring an ox. A horse is by far the most delicate animal; slender limbed, more liable to disease, and when attacked more liable to go down than an ox. If any one doubts this, let him endeavour to effect an insurance on a span of horses or a yoke of cattle, and see what the cool calculators of chances think of the difference. And further if an accident does happen to a horse that renders him unfit for labour, he is utterly worthless, and the only alternative is to kill him at once. It is true Gen. Gaines testified from his own experience in the Florida cam-

paign, that horse meat was no despicable substitute for beef; yet we think few of our farmers would highly relish a horse steak, even if taken from a four year old. On the contrary, if an accident renders the ox unfit for labour, it rarely materially lessens his value for fattening; and all that is necessary is to convert him into beef, and you obtain his original worth, with the pay for expense and trouble of feeding. On this point, the warmest advocate for horse labour cannot fail to perceive the immense advantage there is on the side of the ox.

We admitted in the beginning of this article, that horses will do more work on a farm than oxen; but the difference is not near so great as many farmers imagine. If the ox is slower, he is more sure, can be more quickly brought to his work, and does not hinder by casting his shoes, or breaking his traces. There is more difference in cattle so far as regards capacity for travel and working quick than there is among horses. A well fed span of horses, where the work is not beyond their strength, will do about as much as another; while among oxen, you may select the Devon whose walk will nearly equal that of the horse, or some of the commoner varieties, where you are puzzled to tell whether the animal is moving or otherwise. As a general rule, it may fairly be estimated that a good yoke of cattle, will on the farm, do about two-thirds the work of a span of horses.

In forming our estimate of their comparative value to the farmer, the difference in the expense of raising must not be forgotten. This of course will vary according to the different methods adopted; but one of the best statements we have seen, because founded on actual experiment, is to be found in one of the reports of an eastern agricultural society, carrying out each item of expense incurred in rearing until their labor would pay their way, which in the horse was estimated at four, and in the ox at three years of age. The cost of raising a horse till four years old was found to be \$94, 36. The expense of a yoke of cattle at the same age, \$65, 13—difference in favour of the oxen \$29, 23. Is true the horse when raised may be worth more than the oxen; but we think when the average quality and value of our horses are taken into consideration, there is quite as much probability that the oxen will be worth eighty dollars, as that the horse would reach that sum. Admitting they were each worth that sum, the man who had raised the oxen has made fourteen dollars eighty seven cents; while the man who has raised the horse has lost fourteen dollars, thirty-six cents by the operation.

The same general rule however will hold good in the raising of animals that experience has proved applicable to the raising of crops on a farm; never to run into one kind to the exclusion of all the rest. Horses, cattle, and sheep, are all necessary to the farmer; and he who thinks to make money by excluding any of these from his farm, will most likely in the end find himself mistaken in his calculations.