

# THE GLEANER:

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OLD SERIES]

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

[COMPRISED 13 VOLUMES.]

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## Agricultural Journal.

Albany Cultivator for November.  
FARM OF J. F. SHEAFE.

In August last we had the pleasure of making a call at this fine farm, which is called High Cliff, and is situated in the town of Poughkeepsie. It appears that it has received the first premium from the Dutchess county Agricultural Society as the best cultivated farm in the county. We are not surprised at this, for though our examination of it was necessarily hasty, we could not fail to observe the evidences of good management which are so conspicuous. The following extract from the report of the committee which awarded the premium referred to, will give a more just view of the farm than we are able to furnish from our hasty visit. We would call particular attention to the exactness with which all the operations on Mr. Sheafe's farm are recorded—a plan which we wish might be generally adopted.

The committee through their chairman, cannot let the opportunity pass of expressing their pleasure and approbation of the high state of cultivation, and many improvements they witnessed on this farm. It consists of 230 acres, divided into 13 lots by substantial stone walls, with lanes leading to each lot, and gates hung in the most substantial manner; all the hedges, rows, elders, &c., along the fences, carefully extirpated, and no weeds to be seen; all the loose stones carefully picked up and laid in walls; the land appeared to be in a high state of cultivation, and well seeded and manured. Lime has been used with good effect as a manure, also horn shavings, muck, barn-yard manure, &c.

"The farm buildings were in excellent order, and could not but excite the admiration of the committee. The cow stables, are excellently arranged, the name of each cow being placed over her separate stall, where she can enjoy her food without being annoyed by her neighbors, and she being sheltered from the storms of winter, and being carefully bedded with straw, the manure is saved from being leached by rains. The committee would recommend the stabling of cattle to all farmers, (the stables can be less expensive than these) as a great saving of fodder, manure, &c., adds to the comfort of the cattle, and they believe in a very short time would repay the farmer for the expense of a shed.

"The barns and sheds appear to be very conveniently arranged, being placed on the side of a knoll, and the hay, &c. pitched in the windows of the sheds.

"Mr. Sheafe has been erecting a superior hay press which appeared to be made in the most substantial manner. He has also an office erected near his farm buildings, where his farmer keeps a set of books, being a journal of every day's work, the expense of every field and crop; the age, pedigree, &c., of all the stock. In the office is a platform scale to weigh every thing necessary; also a map of the farm, containing the quantity of land in each field, each lot being numbered and surveyed. Indeed the old adage, "a place for everything, and every thing in its place," appeared to be verified here. The piggery also appeared well adapted to its purpose, well filled with old and young porkers. The farm house and dairy cellar appeared excellent and well arranged.

"The Committee were shown some beautiful farming implements, among them a subsoil plow to break up the hard pan in heavy land, following the common plow, also other plows. All of them appeared well adapted for the work to be done—a plaster sower; straw and root cutter, &c.

"This farm is used principally for grazing. The Committee were shown a beautiful herd of improved short horns, well adapted either for the dairy or the shambles; also a flock of Southdown sheep. It would take too much time to mention everything worthy of note. This farm has been under the management of Mr. James H. Rawson, for a

number of years, and too much credit cannot be awarded him for the skill and judgment shown in everything appertaining to the farm."

### FATTENING ANIMALS.

It should be made a primary object to fatten animals intended for slaughter as rapidly as possible, if we wish to obtain the greatest quantity of meat in proportion to the food consumed. The reason is this: It takes a certain amount of food, daily, to support life, or to supply the natural waste of the body. For instance suppose fifteen bushels of meal and five hundred pounds of hay will bring an animal to a certain degree of fatness in forty days; that is, allowing a peck and a half of meal and twelve and a half pounds of hay to be consumed daily. Now suppose it takes a fourth part of this daily allowance to sustain life, and supply the waste of the body; then, if instead of feeding out our whole quantity of food in forty days, we prolong the time to an hundred and sixty days, the food would be wasted, and the trouble and labor of feeding expended for nothing; as the animal might be in worse condition at the expiration of that than time when we began feeding.

This is a matter which has been too little regarded, and as a consequence, here has been a useless expenditure of food and labor. In the animal economy, the accumulation of fat and extra flesh, is only a deposit of superfluous nutriment, which not being required by the system at one time, is laid by for future emergencies; and it must be obvious that the larger the quantity of food which a fattening animal can be made to consume daily with a good appetite, or to digest thoroughly, the greater will be the amount of flesh and fat gained in proportion to the whole quantity of food consumed.

Another essential point in fattening animals, is to keep them in a quiet and comfortable condition. We do not propose to engage at present in a consideration of the relative action of the different organs of the animal body. Every farmer has, however, more or less noticed the connection which the nervous system has with the digestive and secretive organs. An animal may consume a much larger amount of food, but if it is so situated that it is restless and discontented, the accumulation of fat will be only at a slow and unprofitable rate. We have seen hogs and cattle intended for slaughter, rendered so entirely uncomfortable from the coldness and filthiness of their situation, that they scarcely threw at all, though they consumed and wasted much more food than they would have required if properly cared for. Hence the saying, that "an animal will fret off flesh faster than it can be gained."

Animals should not be confined to wet and muddy places—above all things they should not be obliged to take their food in such places. Cattle and sheep that are fed with grain and vegetables, should be provided with clean mangers. Fattening hogs should be fed in clean troughs, or on clean dry floors, and their sleeping places should be dry and sufficiently warm. They should not be expected to perform much labor in the compost-yard; that service should be rendered while they are in working trim, and not after they are full fed and are becoming overloaded with fat. All exertion is attended with a waste of muscular tissue, and the more laborious the exertion, the greater is the expenditure. Hence the increase in weight will be most rapid by allowing the animal to remain as much at rest as is consistent with the preservation of its health.

Substances in which the nutriment is much concentrated, should be fed with care. There is danger, especially when the animal is first put to feed, that more may be eaten at once than the digestive organs can manage. Meal of Indian corn is highly nutritive, and when properly fed causes animals to fatten faster than almost any other food. They will not, however, bear to be exclusively kept on this article for a great length of time. Meal made from the heaviest varieties of

corn, especially that from the hard flinty kinds grown in the northern and eastern states, is quite too strong food for cattle, sheep, or horses, to be full-fed upon. Hence one of the advantages of having the cob ground with the corn, by which the nutriment is diffused through a greater bulk, lays lighter in the stomach, and is more thoroughly digested. The effect of pure corn meal on animals, we suppose to be similar to that sometimes produced on our own species by the use of fine wheat flour—the subject becomes *dispeptic*, and is forced to use bread which has the bran mixed with the flour. The mixture of the cob with the meal, answers the purpose of the bran—the health of the animal is preserved and the process of digestion goes on uninterruptedly. In fact the advantages of grinding the cob and corn together for feeding cattle may be said to be well established. For hogs, the benefit of the cob, is not, we think, so evident; those animals appearing to be better adapted for taking their nourishment in a concentrated form, than those which ruminate, or chew the cud. Yet food sufficiently bulky to effect the distention of the bowels is necessary for hogs.

Hay or straw, cut into lengths so short as to be readily mixed with meal, answers a good purpose in rendering the meal easy of digestion, and in enabling the animal to extract from it all the nutriment.

Much has been said on cooking food for stock, and it seems to have been pretty well settled that for hogs, it is attended with considerable advantages, but as regards cattle, we are yet without any reliable experiments made in this country. The Highland Society of Scotland, instituted a series of experiments a few years ago, with a view of ascertaining the advantage, if any, of cooking different kinds of food for different species of animals. The conclusion arrived at from the result of these experiments, was, that the superiority of cooked over uncooked food for cattle is but trifling, and not sufficient to balance the cost; but for hogs, the extra cost of preparation was repaid. The articles tried were turnips, potatoes, barley, and oat-meal, oil-cake and flax seed. We do not advert to these experiments as altogether conclusive, though as before said, we could not advise the outlay of much expense for cooking food for cattle, till some additional light shall indicate its advantages.

The appetite and health of animals are promoted by giving a variety of food. This fact has led to the preparation of compounds for fattening stock. An article called "Warnes' Compound," (see last vol. Cultivator p. 373, 374.) is much esteemed by British farmers, for fattening cattle. For fattening hogs, we have used with advantage the following mixtures. 1. Two parts potatoes and two parts pumpkins boil together till they can be easily mashed fine—then add one part meal, stirring and mixing intimately together. The heat of the potatoes and pumpkins will scald or cook the meal, and when cold the mixture will be stiff pudding. 2. Two parts potatoes, and two of ripe, palatable apples, (either sweet or sour;) boil till they can be mashed fine—then add one part meal, (either that from corn, barley or oats and peas, allowing the same weights,) and mix together while the potatoes and apples are hot.

Hogs seem more fond of this food when it has slightly fermented, (not become pungently sour,) and they appear to fatten faster if it is fed in this state. We have never seen hogs thrive faster than when fed on these mixtures, with occasionally a little dairy-slop, and we have always found the pork solid and of good quality.

In regard to the relative value, compared with grain, of different kinds of vegetables for feeding stock, there is, perhaps, more diversity of opinion than on almost any other branch of husbandry. Some, for instance, believe that four bushels of potatoes are equivalent to one bushel of corn meal, others think potatoes should be reckoned higher; others again hold them less valuable, while some declare that stock will scarcely fatten at all on pota-

atoes, and that for milch cows, if they increase the quantity, they injure the quality of the milk. It is not easy to understand fully the cause of such contrary opinions; but there is no doubt that it may be considered partly attributable to the different degrees of nutriment which the same kinds of vegetables possess when grown on different soils, and under different circumstances, and partly to the different systems observed in feeding. According to some chemical analyses, turneps and other vegetables contain considerably more nutriment when grown on some soils, or by the aid of some manures, than when produced on other soils. Potatoes produced in soils deficient in carbonaceous matter, are acknowledged to be less nutritive than others.

But probably the principal cause of vegetables having been undervalued for animals, is their having been used in an improper manner. Boussingault and his associates restricted the food of certain animals to potatoes, turneps, mangel wurtzel, and carrots, and from the result of this experiment, inferred that these vegetables would not fatten swine or cattle—that they reduced the flesh of milch cows, and made the milk poorer—and that all the butyraceous particles the milk contained came from the fat previously deposited in the system.

Without attempting to discuss this matter in detail, we would remark that to a practical man, accustomed to feeding animals with vegetables, these results, though at variance with others, would not appear strange. It is well known that graminiferous animals require food of a fibrous nature, and that an essential function of some species, rumination, cannot be carried on without it. It is also known that the articles alluded to have, when fed by themselves, a laxative or cathartic action; and thus for various reasons, we see the necessity of feeding straw or hay with vegetables, in order to enable the animal to derive full benefit from them. In the experiment of Boussingault, the animals, it should be remembered, were confined to the vegetables, without any fibrous or absorbing substances to check the tendency to purgation, and keep the food in the intestines in such a state, and for such a length of time, that the nutritive particles could be assimilated. If the animals had been fed wholly on corn meal or wheat flour instead of potatoes and turnips, the effects would not, probably, have been precisely similar, but no practical farmer would expect stock to thrive or continue healthy for any considerable length of time on either of these substances. And yet we do not see why it might not with as much propriety be argued from a failure to fatten stock on meal and flour, that it was owing to a deficiency of nutriment in these articles, as that the failure in the former case was attributable to this cause.

## Communications.

### GLOUCESTER COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE deferred Annual Meeting of the Gloucester County Bible Society, was held in the County Court House, Bathurst, upon the evening of the 3d instant, at seven o'clock, WILLIAM NAPIER, Esq. one of the Vice Presidents in the chair.

At the request of the chairman, the business of the evening was commenced with prayer by the Rev. George M'Donnell. After an appropriate preliminary address from the chair, the REPORT for the past year was read by the Secretary. It was then moved by Henry W. Baldwin, Esq. and seconded by Dr. Gordon, That the Report now read be adopted, and published in the *Miramichi Gleaner*. In proposing this Resolution, Mr Baldwin enlarged upon the Divine power and excellency of the Bible, as seen in its results upon men in every station and relation of life; and upon the consequent obligation under which we lie, to circulate the holy scriptures. He also expressed great regret that the Bible Society, on account of which we had then met, should have met