

# THE GLEANER.

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

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## Agricultural Journal.

### GOOD ADVICE.

[The British American Cultivator, a highly useful and admirably conducted Agricultural periodical, published at Toronto, in a late number, gives its readers the following salutary and reasonable advice. We recommend our Agricultural friends to "read, mark, and inwardly digest" the contents of this article.]

"If you have not already settled your accounts, it is high time that you should prepare yourself for performing this duty,—collect what is due you, and pay what you owe,—and whilst doing the latter, by all means pay the printer every farthing that is due him. Examine carefully your farm statistics, and weigh well the result of each experiment and operation; and if the balance sheet should not give a large return in profits as you had previously anticipated, the best course to pursue is to obtain during the winter season an increase of knowledge upon the various operations of farm management. Recollect the old motto, that "knowledge is power." If one class more than another require to be well informed upon the principles which influence and govern their profession, it is the cultivators of the soil. It is high time that the ridiculous notion should be exploded, that any man, no matter how mean his capacity, is qualified to be a successful cultivator. This idea may to a certain extent be correct, in the clearing up and the management of a new farm, but it will not apply to the cultivation of old lands. This fact has been proved to a demonstration, in the former his ory of Canadian agriculture. Causes and effects must be capable of being traced to their true bearings, in any branch of business, to secure the attention and respect of the thinking portion of the population—and this is especially true in agriculture. Now, if agriculturists respect themselves, and wish other classes to respect them, they will at once see about the matter of informing themselves upon the several influences that affect their noble and independent profession. This may best be done by obtaining a knowledge of the views and experience of the best instructed farmers of this and other agricultural countries. It is truly desirable to see every man who can boast of being a tiller of the soil, well instructed in the mysteries which are involved in the various branches of husbandry. Information is acquired by reading, by conversation with intelligent men, and by closely observing the movements and operations of men and things. No farmer need urge in excuse for his ignorance upon matters that so deeply concern his own and his children's welfare, that he has no time to read and acquire information. Only two hours per diem, spent in the acquisition of knowledge, would enable a man of only ordinary talents, in the course of a few years, to converse freely and intelligently upon almost every topic that concerns himself and the welfare of the nation to which he belongs.—This is the proper season to set a good example in this particular, and we hope that each farmer will resolve in his own mind to aid in collecting and propagating useful information and especially of that class that relate to the practice and science of agriculture. The way in which this can best be done, has been described on former occasions, but it may not be amiss to here observe, that Magazines like the *Cultivator*, and agricultural clubs and libraries, are the most efficient means that have yet been introduced, to improve the condition of agriculture.—No farmer should content himself with less than one agricultural paper, and as this is the usual season to renew the subscription to such periodicals, we would embrace this opportunity to urge the claims of the *Cultivator* to the attention of every Canadian farmer. It is not sufficient that it should be in the hands of the best farmers of the country. Every man should take it. Even the humble cottager and his family

might receive from its columns a fund of knowledge that would be worth as many pounds as the cost of the paper would be in pence; and if the contents of only one volume were read, understood and practiced, even by the best practical farmer in the province, it would be worth in the end, to such a farmer and his family, far more than most people would imagine. We trust that none of the present subscribers will fail in renewing their subscriptions in time to get the first number of the forthcoming volume as soon as it is issued, which will be by the 25th inst. If the present subscribers would exert their influence with their friends and neighbours in behalf of the *Cultivator*, it might be placed in the hands of all the principal farmers of the country. Every farmer should be in possession of a periodical devoted to the science and practice of agriculture, and this is the proper season to attend to this matter. So much valuable information upon Canadian agriculture, has never before the existence of the *Cultivator*, been offered to the public at so low a rate, and it would be strange indeed if the intelligent portion of the agricultural classes should prove to be so indifferent to their own interests, as not to subscribe at once for the work.

"While every intelligent farmer should feel an honourable pride in devoting a portion of his time, especially the long winter evenings in mental culture he should at the same time not neglect to execute any branch of business which could be better and more profitably performed at this season than any other. It looks bad to see a farmer constantly spending valuable time in visiting, loitering about public-houses, attending places of idle and silly amusement, when there is much to be done at home, which really requires his attention. A twelve month stock of fire-wood should be first provided, then saw-logs should be drawn to the mill, so that an abundance of lumber may always be at hand for building purposes; and when this is done, a quantity of rails should be split and drawn to the spot required for use; and next comes the making of sap troughs or other vessels to be in readiness to hold the sap taken from the sugar-maple in the spring, all of which should be done while the snow is on the ground. Many say in excuse for spending their time to so little purpose in winter, that they have nothing to do.—Without a desire to unnecessarily dictate to any, we would suggest to those who have such a surplus of spare time, the necessity of procuring suitable material for draining the intervals and other wet spots of ground upon their farms. The best material for constructing covered drains is cedar, though straight pieces of other durable wood laid at the bottom of the drains, about six inches asunder and covered with slabs, will make a durable drain. If only eighty or one hundred rods of such drain be made each year, a vast improvement at a very trifling expense will thus be effected. To make home cheerful and pleasant, it is indispensably necessary for its owner to study a little taste in planning and arranging his dwelling, farm offices, and fences in their immediate neighbourhood. Now, the latter should be made of posts and boards, in such a style as would correspond with the character of the buildings, and the pecuniary circumstances of their owner. It would require but little effort and expense to construct 40 or 50 rods of post and board fence each year and the farmer who totally neglects this branch of operation, to say the least of it, is a man of little taste. This is a good time for cutting and getting outposts for fencing. We hope that the foregoing hints will have the desired effect upon all who wish to be considered models in every thing that is excellent that pertains to agricultural improvements."

### THE FARMER.

If there be any class in our provincial community more to be envied than another, it is that which "drives the plough." If a farmer is an industrious man, entertaining a right idea of the respectability of his calling and the dignity of his position, he has no reason to murmur at his

carthy lot. The merchant, the professional man, the mechanic, and the mariner, may by incessant exertion perhaps, more rapidly accumulate wealth than a mere cultivator of the soil; but the domestic tranquillity—the cheerful aspect—and the air of substantial comfort, which are characteristic of a decent farm house, indicate that its owner must be a happy man. No commercial or political changes and convulsions materially affect his peace of mind. If the produce of his fields cannot be sold, he can appropriate them to his own use; but while the necessities of man continue the same as they are, he will always find a market for the product of his labours. It is true that during the summer months, his business at times is fatiguingly laborious; but he is perpetually surrounded by the most pleasing scenes, enjoys a pure air, and passes his days without those cares and anxieties, which are experienced in most other pursuits.

He is graphically depicted in the following extract from an exchange paper:—

"It does one's heart good to see a merry round-faced farmer. So independent and yet so free from vanities and pride. So rich and so industrious—so patient and persevering in his calling, and yet so kind, social, and obliging. There are a thousand noble traits about his character. He is generally hospitable, eat and drink with him and he want set a mark on you and swear it out with double compound interest, as some I know will—you are welcome. He will do you a kindness without expecting a return by way of compensation—it is not so with everybody. He is generally more honest and sincere—less disposed to deal in low and underhand cunning than many that I could name. He gives society its best support—is the firmest pillar that supports the edifice of government—he is the lord of nature. Look at him in his homespun and grey bucks—gentlemen!—laugh at him if you will—but believe me he can laugh back if he pleases."

From the Main Cultivator.

### NATIVE STOCK.

The principle seems now to be very generally recognized, that most cattle degenerate with a change of climate. In examining the statistics and general state of British husbandry at the present day, we shall find that almost every county in that kingdom, has its peculiar stock. This appears, in most instances, to be original or "native" stock of the country, improved by judicious selection or by crosses. So highly esteemed, indeed, is acclimation, that no judicious and discriminating breeder is ever found willing to discard the native stock, but rather prefers it as a basis on which to build. Few who are familiar with the operation of the principles of the breeding, as there recognized, can be aware how vast an improvement they are, in a short time competent to effect. In our own country, cattle raising has never received the attention it deserves. While a few enlightened and enterprising individuals here and there have interested themselves benevolently, in "building up" and improving, either by following the rules prescribed by their transatlantic brethren, or by the importation of blood stock from abroad, the stock of a particular locality—the great mass of our farmers have remained comparatively indifferent as to the result of their efforts, and disposed—so tenaciously rooted are certain old prejudices—rather to ridicule than approve. Every one is probably aware that so far as the production of good stock is concerned, the farmers of New England are not so much in want of material or information and discernment respecting breeders. Our native stock in its pure state, is peculiarly active and hardy; it has all the benefits of thorough acclimation, and is to the full as capable of symmetrical development, under judicious and radical system of breeding, as the Durham, the Hereford or the Devon. There are certain distinctive traits, or points of form with which the experienced breeder associates, correctly, the qualities of activity and vigor in the ox! Others which denote the presence of a lactescent propensity in

the cow, and other again which bespeak a capacity, to convert food into fat. Each of these marks are distinctly impressed, and as incapable of misconstruction by the eye of an experienced observer, as though the several characters they denote or symbolize were written on the animal's hide. It is, however, of little avail that we select our best animals for breeders so long as we persist in the old practice of selecting the best of their offspring for the market. This is an error that we wish greatly to see reformed. There is a degree of inconsistency in it, utterly incompatible with the character of the age.

### From the Massachusetts Ploughman. THE BEST COWS.

You cannot be absolutely certain, when you purchase heifers, that you will have good cows, but by close attention you may acquire the art of judging pretty accurately whether they will prove good. The first point is the udder; if this is not capacious or if it has not the power of becoming so, she will never be a great milker. Then the color of the skin there is important if you would have rich milk, it should be yellow, or rather mahogany color; but you will want good teats to draw the milk; large teats, not standing close together, are a good sign. These are the most important points.

As to the form of the cow, you will not choose a large head and horns, for it costs too much to support them; nor long legs to make you hold the pail up from the ground, and to require high fences.—Long legs require too much support they are not good even for travelling. Choose short legged animals whenever you have the choice, whether cows, oxen, horses, or hogs. Choose slender necks and tapering tails; straight backs and broad briskets, for such feed better and are less liable to disease. The cow's body should be large in comparison with her head and limbs, but it is not an object to keep very large cows or oxen, or horses on our farms, as a general rule. Middle sized cows, and those below it, you will almost always find better milk.

In regard to the color of the body, a red or yellow, or yellow brindle, is as indicative as any, of a good rich milker. You cannot always determine, by any external marks, whether your heifer will prove a good cow.

After trying her one summer, you can tell better, and you can then turn her off for beef if you chose. On purchasing you will have some regard to colour as a matter of fancy.—Nobody wants a black cow or a white one; and though party colored cows are durable, no white man buys a skunk colored horse for his own keeping.

Mild gentle cows are better than irritable animals; and will be more ready to yield their milk. By close scrutiny you can determine in some degree by the countenance and by the motions of the heifer, whether she is naturally docile; yet very much depends on her breaking, her treatment and education during the first season. Vicious treatment will make any animal vicious; still there is a difference of character independent of education. Examine the eye and the face of the heifer, a large mild eye with a yellow circle or halo around it is a good indication.

From the Same.

### SELECTION OF HORSES.

There are many points to be observed in the selection of a horse for use, and it is not easy to lay down rules on paper that alone will serve for a guide. We sometimes purchase compact, snug built horses that are hardy and taught but they cannot go ahead. These may answer on a farm but not on the road. If we go to the opposite extreme we run the risk of buying those that have not sufficient bottom, or endurance.

Well built compact frames are always to be preferred for service, and it is a good sign in a horse if he weighs more than you would judge from his appearance, because well built horses, houses, monuments, &c., having good proportions, no ugly prominences, always appear less than they really are. A well formed, well proportioned man or woman will al-