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

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## Agricultural Journal.

From the Genesee Farmer.

### REARING, KEEPING AND FAT- TENING DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The science of breeding, keeping and fattening domestic animals is too much neglected in the United States. Few practical farmers have the courage to take hold of the somewhat forbidding subjects of comparative anatomy, physiology and organic chemistry, with a resolute purpose to understand the living organism by which grass, hay, grain and roots are transformed into beef, mutton, pork, butter, cheese and wool. The natural machinery for effecting these important changes of vegetable into animal substances, deserves to be studied with great care, in order to make the most of the food consumed by every animal kept on the farm. There is no class that has reached perfection in yielding the largest product in flesh, milk or wool, for the aliment consumed in the course of its life time. All are fed unequally—sometimes too much, and sometimes too little; and again, they suffer from food more defective in quality than deficient in quantity. One often sees store pigs eat the dung of over-fed fattening hogs; and in this city, the half-starved cows voraciously devour the solid excretions of corn-fed carriage horses. In rearing swine they are commonly under-fed about three-fourths of their lives, and over-fed the other fourth; so that in the aggregate not more than one-half as much meat is elaborated from the food taken into the stomach of pigs as might have been formed.

All animals demand a certain quantity of nutritive matter to preserve them in a normal condition, or to prevent their losing weight and becoming poor and poorer. In all cases where the object is to form meat, it is bad economy to keep animals for weeks and months, as thousands of farmers do, without gaining a pound of flesh, although they necessarily consume a large amount of food. This forms the manure; i. e. 100 lbs. of solid matter taken into the stomach, yield 40 in dry yard dung and urine, and no more. If we feed much above the point of normal nutrition, a portion of aliment fails to enter the lacteal vessels which surround the alimentary canal, and through which digested matter presses into the blood vessels to nourish the system.—This excess of food, whether partially digested or not passes on through the bowels and appears as faces or dung. There is always an immense loss in seeking to make animals excessively fat. Of course when two or three prices are realized for such beef, mutton, or pork, the loss in the waste of food is paid by the consumer. Our object is to develop the true economy of making meat regardless of the fact whether it is sold or consumed by the producer. This consists in providing a reliable supply of suitable food, so that the animal from its birth to the day of its being slaughtered, should steadily gain in weight. So long as it is adding to the length and size of its bones and muscles—growing—its system will be little inclined to take on fat, if not over-fed. Excessive stuffing and no exercise, bring the development of bone and muscle to a premature ripeness. They cease to expand, and you have a lap-dog or a pocket china pig. Habitual starving will also bring the carcass to maturity before it attains to its proper size. Skillful feeding implies that one never gives too much nor too little; and has the food well adapted to the constitution and habits of the animal, whether a horse, sheep, cow, or swine.

This system of feeding is not so easy as some may imagine; for the quantity of grass that will grow on a given number of acres in pasture and meadow in a dry or wet season is very unequal. Hence, in the one case the farmer will have more feed than stock; and in the other more stock than feed. If one must err in the matter, it is usually better to have an excess, rather than a deficiency in forage. Grass left to rot on the ground in a pasture or meadow is far from being lost. It improves the soil.

After having taken all due pains to make two blades of grass and corn grow where only one of either grew before, the stock grower should study closely the business of breeding domestic animals. The leading idea in this art and science is, to select the best males and females from which to propagate and improve the race. This rule applies alike to the equine, bovine, ovine and swine families. In each genus there are several species, in each species there are numerous breeds, and in the several breeds not a few varieties. It is no part of our duty to attempt to write up one species or breeds of animals, whether of cattle, horses, hogs, or sheep, and to write down another. Practical farmers know best what kind of stock will suit their land and markets. Our advice, if offered, would be quite as likely to miss as to hit the wants of the readers. There is more difference in the value of breeds than many are willing to admit, and less than some breeders of improved races claim. A yearling of the short horn stock, less than 13 months old, was weighed in this city a few days since, and brought down 165 lbs. This heifer, which was not fat, is the offspring of Mr Clay's importation. Another heifer of the same family weighed 718 lbs. when 15 months old. The mother of the calf first named belongs to the lady with whom the writer boards, and this valuable cow gives some 20 quarts of rich milk per day. There are Devons near here from the herd of L. F. Allen, Esq., which are much admired for their beauty.

The Texas Telegraph of May 24, published at Houston, says that wool grown in that State, and sent to New York market, has brought \$1.25 a fleece this season. Men are buying large flocks in Mexican States, Missouri, Tennessee and elsewhere, to drive into the northern parts of Texas. Sheep husbandry is beginning to excite considerable attention at the south and south-west.

EDUCATION OF THE YOUNG FOR AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.—Where an ardent thirst is begotten, in the minds of youth, to become thoroughly prepared for an honorable and useful discharge of the active duties which make up the sum of a happy life, the first great step is taken towards the accomplishment of so glorious an end. We turn our attention to parents, the natural guardians of the young, possessing power to mould and fashion the tender mind, and lead and direct aright the early inclinations as they are first developed. To parents we appeal, assured their interest will be exerted to lead the children under their care to contract an attachment to the employment in which they are engaged. Let the son be thoroughly instructed in every branch of labor to be performed upon a farm, and its management in general, and no doubt, with proper opportunities for instruction from suitable books and well-regulated schools, he will fall in love with the science, and delight in the practice of agriculture. In the successful prosecution of this highly honored and peaceful pursuit, female efforts and influence are indispensable to lead to auspicious results. I am aware that some persons, of near-sighted and contracted views, have expressed the opinion that the female mind ought to be occupied altogether in the contemplation of unreal things, of ideas that float in a feverish or excited imagination, and of outward accomplishments, and be content to dwell upon the surface of the subjects, without an attempt to dig in the mine of knowledge. No one honored with the title of mother can for a moment listen to any such suggestion, but will, I am sure, put forth their utmost exertion for the fullest expansion and enlargement of the intellectual and moral capabilities of their daughters, as their sons.—*Mr Lee's Address.*

SPOKEN AGAINST.—What if people do speak against you? Let them feel that you are able to bear it. What is there gained by stopping to correct every word that is whispered to your discredit? Lies will die, if left alone. Slander never kills a sterling character.

## Communications.

### Gloucester County Bible Society.

The Annual Meeting of the Gloucester County Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, was held in the Court House, Bathurst, on Monday evening, the 17th instant, at half past 7 o'clock. The President, H. W. BALDWIN, Esq., being absent through indisposition, the Chair was taken by WM. NAPIER, Esq., senior Vice President. After prayer by the Rev. Mr Lockhart, the Chairman briefly addressed the audience, and then called upon the Secretary, who read the Report of the Committee for the past year. It was moved by Dr. Bishop, and seconded by James Smith, Esq., "that the Report now read be adopted, and published in the Miramichi Gleaner." A number of other Resolutions were moved and seconded, by the Rev. Mr Lockhart, B. Dawson, Esq., Rev. George MacDonnell, Dr. Gordon, Thomas Carman, Esq., and Mr Frost, all which were unanimously agreed to by the meeting. Several of the speakers dwelt at considerable length, and with much cordiality, upon the pious and ennobling objects and effects of the Parent Institution, and of all who are engaged in the same great work of striving to cover the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, by the diffusion of His holy Word. The meeting was concluded by singing the Doxology, and pronouncing the Benediction.

#### REPORT.

If any individual, knowing of the existence of our humble association, and that we were called together partly for the purpose of narrating what we had done for the past year, were to expect that something great or admirable had been effected, that individual would be greatly disappointed. Since our commencement, it may with truth be affirmed, we have known only 'the day of small things.' But during the year now elapsed, we have experienced 'the day of small things' in a much greater degree than we ever had previously. Ought we then to quit the field, and relinquish all efforts, in our corporate capacity, to circulate 'the holy scriptures,' and to diffuse in our sphere that 'knowledge of the Lord' which shall one day fill the earth 'as the waters cover the sea'? Be it far from us, is surely the intuitive response of every attached member of our Auxiliary. We are not at liberty to dissolve our union, or cease our sincere and conscientious endeavors to do our best that our kindred and friends, our neighbors and fellow-sinners, shall possess and peruse that revealed will of God, which, under the teaching of the Divine Spirit, maketh wise unto salvation.

The weeping prophet, in his 'Lamentations,' may have said of the Lord, 'He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out.' But reflection would cause him, in common with every advanced believer, to rejoice, that the God of Israel had so hedged him about. So that just as the great Apostle of the Gentile world would realize joy and comfort, as well as deep conviction and solemnity, when he exclaimed, 'For though I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel.' In like manner will the enlightened disciple of Christ, when surrounded by discouraging or depressing circumstances, say in effect, 'Duty is mine; I am not responsible for results, or to what extent success may crown my exertions for the best welfare of immortal beings. Enough for me to know that the latter, the Most High has reserved as belonging entirely to Himself; the former he has required that I shall discharge in faith and reliance upon Him.'

But when we speak of 'the day of small things,' it ought to be remembered that the designation has a vastly different signification as applied to things spiritual, from what it might convey in reference merely to the things of time and sense. For instance, it would appear to the car-

nally-minded observer, a very small matter to put into the hands of some prodigal or profligate, a copy of the Word of God, especially as such observer might know that many hundred copies of the same word of truth had, in a similar way, been sold or given away without producing any beneficial consequences of which he had ever heard, but on the contrary had in very many cases been misimproved and destroyed. If, however, it should turn out (and there is good evidence to shew that the Spirit of truth has frequently been pleased to lead to such fruits) that the reading of that copy of 'the oracles of God' had been the means of changing thoroughly the mind and character of the man, so that he who before was profane, became reformed and prayerful, and all unrighteousness received a death-blow in his soul, where the love and practice of holiness henceforth prevailed, what would be proved, but that through this weak instrumentality, it had pleased God to save a soul from death, and to hide a multitude of sins? And this we are assured is an issue so grand, so important, and so eminently felicitous, that not only saints on earth, and the spirits of the just made perfect, will rejoice over it, but the hierarchy of heaven will triumph in so glorious an accomplishment, knowing as they well do, the unspeakable value and preciousness of a human soul. The Saviour of sinners himself has given us this sublime intelligence—'I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.' Luke 15, 10.

We are taught by Jehovah himself that 'them that honor Him, He will honor.' Upon this principle and promise we may rely, that if we unfeignedly strive to glorify God in the spiritual welfare of mankind, we shall assuredly gain a gracious reward. May we not hope that if, as a Society, this be our aim, we shall be honored to do our brethren good by bringing them the word of eternal life, or by bringing this treasure more readily within their reach. At all events we shall have done what we could, if we faithfully and conscientiously pursue our course. The christian, in his labours of benevolence, has the satisfaction of feeling that he has a present and an adequate reward in the personal benefit derived. Like the magnetic iron, which, after communicating of its magnetism, so far from losing any of its former power or quantity, has, by the communication, increased the amount it formerly possessed, so the disciple of Christ, when seeking zealously to impart to others the knowledge that maketh wise unto salvation, realises in his own mental and spiritual improvement, the sacred truth taught in the Book of God, 'there is that scattereth and yet increaseth.'

The Treasurer has received since last anniversary the sum of £2 17s 9d., and your Depository £1 3s. 9d., for sales of copies of the Scriptures, making a total of £4 1s. 6d. £4 of this amount are required to discharge the debt incurred by the Society in connection with Mr Bertram, late Colporteur in this Province. There will thus remain 1s. 6d. in the hands of the Treasurer, at the credit of the Society.

The Committee have lately received from the Society in London, fifty brevier New Testaments, and twenty five French Testaments (De Lacy's version), which are now on sale at the depot in the village. For these, we stand indebted to the British and Foreign Bible Society in the sum of £2 5s. 2d. sterling.

In conclusion, your Committee beg to state the conviction of their own minds, that the present state of the world, and of Europe in particular, presents a solemn and impressive call, in the providence of God, to all who love that 'law of the Lord' which is 'perfect, converting the soul,' to employ their most strenuous influence and exertions to diffuse throughout society at large, in every country, that revelation from Heaven which is addressed to every sinner of mankind. That charity, without which we are 'nothing' in Christ, will impel all in whom it reigns, to endeavor by every possible and proper means, that the word of sanctification be more extensively circulated, read, and searched, until pure