

SAVING WEAK COWS IN SPRING.

It frequently happens that when there is a scarcity of Hay a number of cattle die in the spring after the frost is out of the ground, but before the grass has sprung up. These cattle generally belong to poor men who have at this season neither money nor credit, and to them the loss of two or three cows is a great injury, and they do not soon find themselves able to replace them. It should be generally known that on most farms where there is a part of the ground in good order, one mans labour is sufficient to procure roots enough to support five or six cows. The roots of clover, couch-grass, dandelions and crowfoot or butter cups, will be found fully equal to green grass for feeding, and if given to cows who have as much hay as they will eat, will considerably increase their milk. Roots can most easily be procured from red clover sowed the preceding season, and from couch-grass adjoining ploughed ground. The roots should be spread in the sun till the earth which sticks to them is dry when by throwing them into heaps and beating them it will fall off,—in wet weather it will be necessary to wash them by throwing them into a pond or brook and stirring them with a stick. Upon newly cleared woodland where there is a thick turf in a state of decay, a growth of what is commonly called Prickly Sarsaparilla occasionally springs up, and flourishes while the rotten turf continues mellow. This plant fills the ground with abundance of long cord-like roots, and cows have been observed to learn to tear them up with their horns as soon as the frost left the ground, and had manifestly gained flesh after living upon them for three weeks during which they had no hay. In the droughts of India it is often necessary to feed cattle with grass roots for several weeks during which the green herbage is all dried up.

After the first of April if cattle that are in good order are turned into the woods there will be no danger that they will perish with hunger, but many poor farmers, in every sense, knowing that they have not fodder enough for their cattle, give them such a scanty allowance that when the ground thaws they are so weak that instead of browsing, they lye down most of the time till they become unable to rise. I have known of a man who kept a horse and four or five cows, whose hay always run short in the spring, yet he made more butter from his cows than any of his neighbours. In summer his cattle were always left in a pasture at night, and never kept in the stable except while they were milked. His hay was a mixture of foxtail, white clover, and couch-grass, and in winter his cows had as much as they could eat, and were very carefully fed and watered; but when the hay was reduced to the quantity that he thought would be required for his horse, he drove his cows to the ground upon which he had been cutting cord wood, to browse upon the branches of the beech, they being then (owing to the superior quality of his hay, and careful feeding) in as good condition as many that are slaughtered for beef. When the cows came back to the barn he would not put them into the stable, but in the morning drove them again into the woods. After three or four days they left off returning to the barn, and though they were sometimes turned out as early as the middle of March, when the snow was deep, they never became very poor, nor had any mischances in calving. These cattle did not appear to be of uncommonly hardy breed, for when the old man died, and the cattle came into the hands of his son, an idle dissipated character, the horse and all but one of the cows perished within three years by the common accidents which destroy starved neglected cattle.

Parasip seed from Jersey or Guernsey gives the largest crop, and of the best quality; it soon degenerates when grown in England or in the Eastern American States.

ADDRESS,

Read to the Annapolis County Agricultural Society, at their Annual Meeting, March 4, 1842, by James R. Smith, Esq.

GENTLEMEN,—It may be deemed presumption in me, not being a practical Farmer, and so recently coming among you, to attempt offering any remarks on the subject of a science with which most if not all present should be so much better informed, from daily practice, and long experience; but an anxious desire to see Agriculture improve, in a County so abundant in all those resources best fitted for its developement, and so qualified, from the fertility of its soil, and the advantages it otherwise possesses, to become one of the first Agricultural Counties of the Province, compels me, at this, the General Meeting of the Annapolis County Agricultural Society, to address you; in the hope, if practicable, to arouse the Agriculturist of this County to the importance of the subject, and, by stimulating their energies, aid in bringing about a better and more perfect system of Husbandry—by which alone the wealth now lying dormant in the soil may be extracted to the enrichment of yourselves and families.

These, together with a conviction of the imperative duty on every man, by every means in his power to render the talents with which he is favored useful to his fellow men, have induced me, at every risk, to offer my ideas on the advantages of Agriculture generally, and to this County in particular, to your consideration.

The subject affords too extensive a field to be entered upon fully, at a time like the present; but if every Member of this Society would, from time to time, contribute his share of information on particular branches of it, for the general good, the field may ultimately be ranged over usefully, and I trust not unprofitably to all those who, like you, are so materially interested in it.

Permit me to enquire of you, in the first place, why it is that Agriculture in this Province proceeds at a much slower rate than many other sciences? The answer is obvious. It arises from prejudice on the one hand, and the absence of the desire for research on the other. Every man becomes wedded to his own system, and hence arises an overweening conceit of himself as an Agriculturist. Against this the promoters of this Society have had to contend, when urging the advantages of Agricultural Union; many objecting to the benefits to be derived from such Societies; or that any more extensive information can be imparted to them, than that which they already possess.

Many, less anxious in the progress of Agriculture, might, from such perverseness, have been induced to abandon the cause in disgust. Fortunately, however, Gentlemen, for this County and the science of Agriculture, this has not been the consequence of such lukewarmness, it having been attributed to the true cause, and not as affording an evidence of the hopefulness of the attempt to arouse the Farmers, ultimately, to a proper sense of the tendency of Agricultural Societies, to diffuse a spirit of emulation and research among the Farmers, and thereby make them good, practical and scientific, Agriculturists.

Nor can it be wondered at, Gentlemen, that such men are to be found among us, when it is considered that the Farmers in general are not readers; from which they lose all the recorded improvements of individuals, and of Agricultural Societies.—Having no system of education in this Country whereby the first principles of Agriculture may be acquired, the Farmer is driven to receive his Agricultural Education from the practice of his Father, and the neighbourhood in which he dwells; and which, having been handed down to him, unadulterated and unimproved, through