

LITTER

It is very necessary to the health of cattle that their stables should be well littered. When straw is not to be had for this purpose the small twigs of the balsam fir will answer very well, and will considerably increase the quantity of manure, for the green leaves of the fir contain a large proportion of potash, an article necessary to grain and grasses, and in some measure to every sort which we cultivate. The stony part of the soil will not dissolve in water unless united with potash or soda, but the Epidermis or outer bark of grain and grasses contains always a portion of silica or flint earth, which is the reason that the ash of straw makes a good grit for Razor straps. Whenever there is too little of this silica in the composition of grain the straw is watery and liable to rust and to fall.

When the ground is thawed in the spring, the man who has no hay may generally support his Cattle with grass roots till the vegetation commences, as the inhabitants of India do in the dry season; these roots are most easily procured, and cattle thrive remarkably upon a mixture of them with those of the Crowfoot. They will also live on the roots of Sorrel, Couchgrass, Dandelions, or Prickly Parsnips. This last has a prickly stem about sixteen inches high, without branches; it grows only on newly burnt woodland, producing a great quantity of roots which spread widely in the moldering turf.

When cattle are very poor in the spring in consequence of scanty food, mark those that have held the most flesh, for breeders, and those that have lost most, for turning off as soon as they can be cleaned, taking care never to raise any of their calves.

VANITY OF HUMAN WISHES.

This celebrated poem, (taken substantially from Juvenal, who borrowed his material from Socrates;) may, whenever it shall be touched by a future poet, receive a notable addition from the circumstances of the present times. Millions have been accustomed to wish that they could find a friend who would lend them a sum of money, as they were assured they could in that case get it back. Since the commencement of the present Century all of these wishers who could give good security, have found friends who, for valuable consideration, have lent them to their hearts content. The consequences we all feel. Experience, we have been told, keeps us at school, and the truth of this proverb we have learned by experience. As we must pay for our schooling; let us get what we can from it, and hereafter, before gratifying a wish coolly and carefully calculate the possible and probable consequences of such gratification, instead of waiting, as we have done, to feel them afterward. The importance of doing things at the proper time is well expressed by the French Kings son, who complained to his master that a certain Nobleman had threatened to beat out his brains. "Never fear Triboulet," said the King "if any body kills me, I'll have him hanged a quarter of an hour after." "Ah sire," replied Triboulet, "please to have him hanged a quarter of an hour before."

ON THE BREEDING OF CATTLE AND SHEEP.

Many farmers consider as matter of indifference that on which the profitable nature of their occupation mainly depends. The more they breed the worse the female is, the more this will be the case when she is put to a well bred male. Now, it is known to graziers, that to attempt to fatten an animal that possesses no feeding propensities, produces loss instead of profit. The feeding propensities descend to the sire, and therefore, it is quite just to say, that a breeder of cattle or sheep, who considers it a matter of indifference what

sort of a male animal he uses, does consider it a matter of indifference whether he gains profit or incurs loss.

The first thing to be considered in the selection of a male, are the indications by which it may be possible to form a judgment as to his constitution. In all animals a wide chest indicates a strength of constitution, and there can be no doubt that this is the point of shape to which it is most material for any breeder to look, in the selection of either a bull or a ram. The animal also should exhibit great muscular power, or rather, his muscles should be large. This is a usual accompaniment of a strong constitution; but it likewise shows that there will be a good proportionate mixture of lean and fat in the meat produced by the animal; the muscles being that part of the meat which is lean. A thick neck is, both in bulls and rams, a proof of the muscles being large, and there can hardly be a greater fault in the shape of a male animal, of either sort, than his having a thin neck.

In a bull there ought to be a full muscle on each side of the back bone, just behind the top of the shoulder blades. He ought also to have the muscles on the outside of the thigh, and extending down nearly to the hough. It is sufficient to say, therefore, that no animal is fit to be used at all as a sire, whose handling is not good, and that the more perfect his shape is, the better.

A man can only look at the general quality of the females he possesses, and observe what are the faults most prevalent among them; these he should be most careful to avoid in the male which he intends to use. All that a man can do is to avoid putting a male and female together whose imperfections are the same, thereby increasing the fault already existing in his stock. It need not be said that those who turn two or three rams of different shape and qualities into a field with all their ewes, without attempting to make any selections among them, have no right to be successful breeders, and if they do expect it, will certainly be disappointed.

There is one failing to which all breeders are liable, but to which the breeder of male animals is more particularly liable, and against which he ought most carefully to guard himself; that is too great partiality for animals bred by himself, and he ought frequently to use the stock belonging to other breeders, and fairly compare its merits with those of his own.—*Mark Lane (London) Express.*

From the British American Cultivator.

HARD TIMES.

The Canadian agriculturist is in a truly enviable position when compared with the same class in the United States. The spirit of speculation has run so high within the last few years in that country, that it has in some states of the Union, become a rare thing to find a farmer "free and independent"—or in other words, his freehold property unencumbered. Independent of this fact, the taxes direct and indirect are three times as great as ours; and the currency is so degraded, that the mass of the bank promissory notes are like so many filthy rags. The picture we have drawn, although correct to the very letter, might be considered by a prejudiced mind rather exaggerated, to convince such that we are not actuated by any improper motive, we beg to give an extract from a journal of a high and indisputable character published on the spot. A correspondent of *The St Louis Republican* writes under date of the 11th January last:

"The Secretary of State appeared within the bar of the House, and read to that body a communication from the Governor, urging upon the Legislature the immediate necessity of action in regard to the finances of the State. He affirmed that for want of means, it was with the utmost difficulty that necessary supplies could be purchased for one dollar and seventy-five cents cash, the State now had to pay three dollars and a half for; candles, which for money could be procured at thirty-cents per pound, now cost the State one dollar, and other things at the same proportion; all arising from the fact that there was nothing but auditor's warrants to pay them with. He also stated that it was with the greatest difficulty that money enough could be procured to pay the postage on letters addressed to the Executive department, and entreated that some action might be had in regard to the finances of the state at once.

We think that we have clearly shown that Canada is not in a worse condition than her neighbouring States; and in our next: will make some allusions to the present state of the farming interests in Great Britain, and compare the difficulties which the English farmer have to surmount in comparison with the farming classes in this Province.