

not only more grain, but a greater amount of hay and straw,—which with a liberal supply of roots, will enable the farmer to keep a larger number of animals, which are to be regarded as manufacturers of manure.

But it is of the latter condition, the *quality* of the manure, that we designed more particularly to speak. In this respect also, there is indeed much room for improvement. During our cold, dry weather in winter, farm-yard manure is not exposed to much waste or deterioration, and it may be put out into the field in separate cart loads, without much risk of loss. Even animal substances we find under these conditions of temperature and moisture run but very slowly into decomposition, and consequently the escape of ammonia into the atmosphere is prevented. The amount of rain too, in our winter months, is not generally so large as to cause much waste of the manure exposed in our yards and heaps, by washing away its saline and soluble portions. The great danger from this cause is in the spring, or the first breaking up of winter, when the rapid thawing of the frozen ground and the sudden conversion of snow into water, accompanied often by heavy rains, may be seen to convert the more valuable portions of farm-yard dung into stagnant pools or running streams, the water of which is so strongly impregnated with saline and organic matter, as to assume a dark-brown, and sometimes even an absolutely black color. Now what a lamentable waste is here going on, under our daily observation, and at our very doors! By this repeated drenching of the farm yard and dung heaps, the manure, before it is applied to the crops, is often denuded of one-half of its fertilizing power. Now we ask our farmers to prevent this. How is it to be done, some may ask? Much of this waste is owing no doubt to defective arrangements in the farm buildings, which are generally erected, with little regard to any high degree, of not only preserving the manure, but even of the com-

fort and health of the animals, and the proper economy of their food.

Without asking our farmers to do, what perhaps the majority have neither the means nor inclination of doing—to erase their old buildings, and put up new ones on a better system, (a most desirable and practicable object, however, in some cases,) much can be done towards mitigating the evil complained of, by the exercise of a little ingenuity and forethought. By collecting all refuse matter about the homestead and on the farm, in connection with the bedding of animals, and the water in the yards, all of which is more or less impregnated and intermixed with the solid and fluid excrements of the cattle; and putting these materials into a heap, so as to ensure a moderate degree of fermentation, covered by absorbing substances, such as half-rotted straw or leaves, liberally sprinkled with plaster or charcoal powder; a *much larger quantity of superior manure of home production*, can be obtained on the spot where it is required for application, than is now the case on ninety-nine farms out of every hundred. The principal thing is to prevent the heavy rains washing away into the swales and streams the liquid or best portion of the manure. By furnishing buildings with eve-troughs, and making a cheap tank or two, and especially by absorbing with porous substances the liquid matter as it exudes from the heap or yards, thereby preventing its absolute waste; these and other expedients that will naturally suggest themselves to every thoughtful mind, and adapted to special circumstances, would in a few years do wonders in effecting the increase of our crops and herds, and consequently the profits and improvement of Canadian farming.

#### SALES OF LIVE STOCK IN ENGLAND IN 1858-9.

The following items gleaned from several of the principal sales of Short-horn cattle and Sheep, will be interesting to many of our readers, who will see the