

The art of gardening is cultivated by amateurs, who produce specimens of onions, carrots, parsnips, asparagus, and celery, of a size and quality which can scarcely be excelled. A Horticultural Society has for some time been in existence in Elora, and another one has recently been established in Guelph. Such Societies, if well conducted, must be productive of much good.

Fences are almost exclusively composed of Rails, placed in the zig-zag form; in many cases, however, a vast improvement has been made in the method of constructing them. The stakes at the corners are now placed perfectly upright, and are secured at the top with a cap; in this way they occupy less ground, are much stronger, more durable, and less ugly than when made on the original plan. This kind of fence might be much improved in appearance by an ornamental tree being planted in the corner of every third pannel. Post and rail, post and board, and stone fences, are used, but not generally.

Those horrid nuisances, bars, are used instead of gates, but fortunately gates are becoming more fashionable than formerly.

The horses are of no distinct variety, but they are tolerably active and hardy: means are being taken by the Agricultural Society to effect an improvement in the breed by offering large premiums for the introduction of superior stallions.

To horned cattle of this County is perhaps unrivalled in the Province, and for its pre-eminence in this respect, it is indebted to the extensive importations of pure Short Horns by Rowland Wingfield, Esq., and the Hon. Adam Fergusson. The herd of the former gentleman was purchased by Mr. Howitt, a gentleman of large fortune, and a skilful and enthusiastic breeder, residing at Guelph Grange. Mr. Howitt bought one of the Hon. A. Fergusson's imported cows, and a bull, which was bred by that gentleman; he also bought a bull from Mr. Vail of Troy, which was bred directly from the highly celebrated herd of the late Mr. Bates of Kirk-leavington. Mr. Howitt's stock has rendered itself so conspicuous, wherever it has been exhibited, as to need no further comment on this occasion.

A very superior bull was also imported from England, by a Mr. Atkinson of Guelph, which has effected a marked improvement in the young stock of his neighbourhood.

A number of cattle have descended from the herds above mentioned of a quality so good that the uninitiated may well be excused for mistaking them for thorough-bred.

A great number of Leicester and Southdown

sheep, from the most improved English flocks, have been imported into the County, and ten years ago it had as high a character for sheep as for cattle; but the wool carders were clamorous for fine wool, and the farmers wanted a heavy fleeces; so, by way of compromise, they crossed the Leicesters with the Downs, and then bred from the offspring, and by persisting in this pernicious course for a few years, they scarcely got any wool at all, and very nearly lost the carcass of the sheep into the bargain. The farmers have, however, long since discovered their error; a more judicious system of breeding has been adopted; fresh Leicester blood has been procured, and it may reasonably be expected, as it certainly is hoped, that shortly a respectable breed may be restored.

An excellent breed of hogs exists in the County, but the farmers must be cautious of breeding from mongrels, or their hogs will become as much deteriorated as their sheep.

Deer are plentiful in a wild state, but the time for domesticating them in Parks has scarcely yet arrived.

Goats are discouraged on account of their mischievous propensities.

The same remark will apply to Rabbits.

Poultry of every variety may be reared in abundance, and if properly housed during winter, and well fed, they might be made profitable.

Pigeons are kept more for ornament than for profit.

Bees are not very generally kept, but some good housewives make a considerable addition to their pin money by taking care of them.

In addition to the improvements which have taken place in buildings, fences, and implements, it is proper to mention that under-draining has been practiced by some farmers in Guelph and Eramosa to a considerable extent, and, as the benefit arising therefrom is most manifest, the example will doubtless be followed.

The chief manure used is that which is produced in the stables and barn yard, from whence it is carted early in the summer and deposited in a heap in the immediate vicinity of the spot where it is to be used, and is there left to ferment. It is usually applied to summer fallow, and is ploughed in with the last furrow as speedily as possible after it is spread, in order to prevent evaporation. Its application is always attended with good effect.

Buckwheat, clover, &c., are occasionally ploughed in, whilst in a green state, but the experiment frequently proves unsuccessful. Lime has been tried, but not on a scale sufficiently large to warrant any one in speaking positively as to its results. Marl is found in several parts