

Iowa, and we trust that some of our readers will try this plan and report to us. It appears very reasonable, not very expensive to try, and may prove very profitable. Some of our dairymen may profit by it, and report at the next Convention. This little hint may be worth an immense sum to our country if it answers as well as reported above. We mention the dairymen because, as a class, we find them far ahead of the grain and stock raisers in the matter of progress. They are doing far more good to the country by their enterprising trials and reports than ten times the number who go on in the old ruts worn out by their grandfathers, can do.

Stock.

The London *Mark Lane Express*, in speaking of recent exportations of British stock to other countries, says: "From Glasgow, Mr. Simon Beattie, of Canada, has been shipping for his own stud farm at Bangor, Ontario, and Mr. Cochrane, of Montreal, two Short-horn cows from the late Mr. Barnes' herd; a roan heifer of the Fane tribe from the Hon. Col. Duncombe's; and a large collection of very first-rate Ayrshires, cows and heifers, bought up during the last three months from the best breeders in Ayr, Wigtown, Lanark, Peebles and other counties noted for their Ayrshire herds. Two or three first-class Clydesdale and other stallions, prize winners, also accompany the cattle."

There is much speculation as to the amount of gross in beef cattle. Experiments have lately been made in Liverpool to determine, as near as possible, the amount of meat. But the race, blood, and condition of the animal enter largely into the calculation. It was found that certain animals produced 70 per cent. of meat, while others gave only 50 per cent. The mean weight of meat produced in several hundred experiments, on an average was 58 per cent. An ox weighing alive 1,332 pounds, contained 772 of meat, skin 110, grease 88, blood 55, and hoofs 22, head 21, tongue 61, lungs and heart 154, liver and spleen 22, intestines 66, lost and evaporation 154 pounds, making 1,332 pounds. By this it will be seen that if an ox of that weight is purchased at 4 cents per pound it costs \$53.28. If the 772 pounds is sold, on an average at 7 cents it will bring \$54.04 leaving the hide and tallow to pay the butcher, which is worth \$17.—*Ex.*

The matter of in-and-in breeding is one upon which it would seem breeders have little room for difference; and yet there is scarcely anything connected with breeding, and the improvement of the various kinds of stock, concerning which breeders entertain such a wide diversity of opinion. One class of breeders—and their number and reputation is amply sufficient to secure a respectful consideration for such propositions as they may advance concerning the philosophy of breeding—hold that the system of in-and-in breeding is radically and entirely wrong; while, on the other hand, another class of breeders, equally numerous and respectable, believe that through this system alone can the breeder hope to make this improvement in his herds, or even maintain the standard of excellence already secured.

Were these differences to be reconciled by an appeal to the personal experience of the breeders of to-day, it is possible that the most extended research would fail in bringing us to satisfactory conclusions. This generation, however, is not the only one which has labored for the improvement of our domestic animals, and we are not, therefore, compelled to rely altogether upon the testimony and experience of men now living. And in taking the average recorded experience of the past, we cannot escape the conclusion that this system of breeding has contributed more than all others combined to the improvement of the various races of domestic animals. The thoroughbred horse, the Short-horn, and various families of sheep and swine—and there is also good reason for believing the same to be true of the Hereford cattle—are the product of this system of in-and-in breeding. The foundations of all our improved varieties of stock were laid in this system, and until it was discovered and generally practiced no breeder appears to have achieved any remarkable degree of success in the improvement of domestic animals.

This evidence seems sufficiently conclusive; and that it is in many quarters not so received, is due to the fact, that many have, within their own observation, known of instances where the same system has been productive of pernicious consequences. For, that such is sometimes the character of its results, few will deny. Like many other things, from which substantial benefits can be secured when used with judgment and to a proper extent, the system of

in-and-in breeding, in the hands of careless and ignorant persons who carry it to an extreme, and pursue it with no definite purpose in view, may, and likely will, be mischievous in its consequences. In-and-in breeding tends to intensify and fix in the offspring the qualities and peculiarities of the animal whose blood is made the basis of the operation. And where an animal possesses exceptional points of excellence, a judicious course of in-and-in breeding will tend to fix permanently in the offspring these points of excellence, which otherwise there would be no certainty of reproducing. In-and-in breeding, however, while it fixes and intensifies a type, and imparts to the blood of an animal increased strength or capacity to reproduce itself, is at the cost of size and vitality—for the law of compensations applies here as well as elsewhere. Therefore, when animals possess no exceptional good qualities which it is desired to fix and secure, there is nothing gained by breeding in-and-in; while the loss in size and vitality—slight, perhaps, in the first instance, but increasing with alarming ratio as the operation is continued—is so much ground lost. And when, coupled with the fact that animals may possess no exceptional points of excellence to be preserved and fixed, they do many points of inferiority, a course of in-and-in breeding is not only at the expense of the size and constitution of the progeny, but at the additional expense also of fixing and exaggerating their bad qualities. And this is so frequently the result of the operations of those who pursue a course of breeding in-and-in, that we are not at all surprised that many careful observers have come to denounce in its entirety a system productive of so much mischief.

In the hands of the experienced and intelligent breeder, who will use proper judgment in the selection of animals, and in the extent to which he carries it—who knows the qualities which it is desirable to secure, and when he has succeeded in fixing them—who possesses the facilities and can exercise the judgment to restore the vitality which he has sacrificed in the operation, and to preserve the good qualities he has implanted in his herd while breeding out the undesirable—in the hands of such a breeder, to be resorted to when occasion seems to demand it, we regard in-and-in breeding as the most potential influence upon which he can rely for making permanent improvement in his herds or flocks. And without it, we believe improvement, if possible at all, would be extremely slow and difficult.

On the contrary, in the hands of the ignorant and careless, or those destitute of the proper facilities for pursuing it with success, there is probably nothing so certain to result in deterioration as a resort to in-and-in breeding. For while animals possessing good qualities worthy of being intensified by such a course are rare, animals possessing bad qualities which will be fixed in the same degree, are very common. And in addition to animals making no improvement in the hands of an unskillful breeder, but remaining in a condition where it is possible for his successor to accomplish more, bad qualities may become so fixed by injudicious in-and-in breeding, that subsequent efforts cannot, for a long time at least, remove them.—"OBSERVER," in the *National Live Stock Journal*.

N. P. BOYER & CO., PARKESBURG, PA.

N. P. Boyer & Co. send broadcast over the country a periodical called the *Stock Journal*. This paper contains inviting-looking advertisements of stock, &c., which these gentlemen appear to be solicitous to dispose of to their patrons and the public generally. This stock is represented as being "pure and high bred," and these gentlemen announce that the \$250,000 which they have invested in this superior quality of stock will be used in a manner satisfactory to their customers and honorable to themselves. Some of our subscribers have, by letter, and others in person, inquired of us in reference to the standing of the aforesaid N. P. Boyer & Co., and whether or not we thought it advisable to make purchases of them. Until rather recently we have been unable to advise, as we had no knowledge of these parties. And now our information is confined to reports of others, and not to personal knowledge. But we are constrained to the conviction that they are not giving satisfaction to all their patrons, and that at least a part of the stock they are shipping is indifferent and miserably inferior-looking. We speak of this on authority and of what we know. A short time since we made a visit to Kentucky, and whilst there heard most bitter complaints of this firm. We will not mention the strengthening adjectives or epithets applied to them, but they were not highly esteemed by parties who had paid to know of what they spoke. We notice, too, in the September number of the *Rural Carolinian* that Mr. J. M. Dennis and quite a number of his neighbors, do not speak lovingly of Messrs. N. P. Boyer & Co., nor admiringly of the Essex pigs that have grown in that \$100,000 sty of Messrs. M. P. B. & Co., and for which Mr. Dennis paid \$40 per pair.

In fact Mr. Dennis grows very irate, and is evidently of the opinion that the Parkesburg swine grower is a swindler, and proposes to advertise that fact by exhibiting his \$40 pigs at

the State Fair. At seven months of age they average something under thirty pounds.

Now this article is not written for the benefit of the *Stock Journal* man alone—it is written to impress upon our readers the importance of investing their money with, and purchasing stock only of such persons as they are assured will not impose on them. There are men who have established character for honesty and integrity. These are the persons to whom you should send your orders.—*St. Louis Journal of Agriculture*.

We are aware that some Canadians are of satisfied with transactions that have taken place, and we deem it right to insert the above that our readers at least may be on their guard.

Miscellaneous.

DISCOURAGEMENTS IN FARMING.

It is not at all uncommon for people, especially the young, to get easily discouraged.

We take a farm and commence operations, and find at the end of the year that we have not done as well as we expected, or we have even lost considerable, and, getting frightened, run away frequently to meet only the same trouble elsewhere.

If we would plant in our children the best seeds of success, we do not know any more promising than courage to face difficulties. Very few ever faced trouble boldly who did not come off better than conquerors, for they not only gained their point at last, but gained the force and experience which enabled them to foresee and prevent much trouble in the future.

A very pleasant experience we recently read somewhere—we think in the *Maine Farmer*—of Mr. J. H. Willard, now a wealthy farmer of Wilton, in that State. Referring to the cry of hard times, he thinks they are not much to those of us whose hair is tinged gray. He says: "Many think they never saw such discouraging times. The young people probably never did; but we old people have seen much worse. In 1816 I commenced farming on my own hook. I had just got married, and was full of courage. The spring was dry, and we got in our crops in good season. On the 6th, 7th and 8th of June it snowed each day, and a sleigh passed my house in Lancaster, N. H., for the village, on the 8th. Not a bushel of sound corn was raised in the north of New Hampshire or Vermont, nor a bushel of ripe potatoes except early blue, and most of the wheat was frost bitten, and the hay crops light: yet nobody starved, all were healthy and received the bountiful crops of 1817 with thankful hearts and good appetites. The year 1833 was another hard time—harder than this, for people were poorer, and means of transportation less. I repeat, don't be discouraged. Trust to Providence, keep trying, and all will come out right."

This is the experience of most of us to the times; and as to the success of our ventures, there are few of us who do not know what the struggles cost us. The writer of this well remembers his own sailings against the waves of fate. He looks back with pride particularly to one period, when he lived for six months on an average of two dollars and a half per week, rather than abandon what seemed to many as a hopeless enterprise. But it succeeded and was the foundation of many blessings which followed.

In like manner, his first enterprise at farming was a terrible disaster. The crops yielded hardly the price of the seed used, and the year's labor was entirely thrown away. The little cash capital was all gone, and nothing much was left but a tract of good but worn out land. The live stock was not sufficient to make manure for the whole farm, and there was no money to buy any. True there were friends who would loan it if asked but a spirit of independence forbade that. The feeling with which the writer sat on his last load of rye straw, to take to market, is well remembered. The land needed manure, and that straw ought to be kept and used at home; but there was a wife and one infant to be provided for, and the money must be raised even by the sale of the last straw. But the resolution to proceed never died. How to conquer was a continual study. It was resolved that one half the farm should lie in weeds and waste, so that the other half might be well manured and well tilled, and that policy prevailed. The crops which followed made a handsome surplus over cost, and in a few years the whole neglected portion was brought into successful and profitable cultivation. This land was sold some years ago for a handsome profit over first cost; but it was not parted with without some regret, as the field of one of our earliest and greatest victories in the great battle of life. And so we would not have our young friends discouraged if they find crops fail or times hard. There never was a truer saying than that "fortune favors the brave," just as true is it in the everyday affairs of life as in the love affairs for which it was first applied.—*Philadelphia Weekly Press*.

THE FARMER.

The man who stands upon his own soil, who feels that by the laws of the land in which he lives—by the law of civilized nations—he is the rightful owner of the land which he tills, is by the constitution of nature under a wholesome influence, not easily imbibed from any other source. He feels, other things being equal, more strongly than another, the character of a man, as the lord of the animate world. Of this great and powerful sphere which, fashioned by the hand of God, and upheld by His power, is rolling through the heavens, a portion is his from centre to sky. It is the space on which the generation before him moved in its round of duties; and he feels himself connected by a visible link, with those who precede him, as he is also to those who follow him, and to whom he is to transmit a home. Perhaps his farm has come down to him from his fathers.—They have gone to their last home; but he can trace their footsteps over the scenes of the daily labor. The roof that shelters him was reared by those to whom he owes his being. Some interesting domestic tradition is connected with every enclosure. The favorite fruit tree was planted by his father's hand. He sported in his boyhood beside the brook, which still winds through the meadow. Through the field lies the path to the village school of early days. He still hears from his window the voice of the Sabbath bell which called his fathers and forefathers to the house of God, and near at hand is the spot where his parent laid down to rest, and where when his time is come, he shall be laid by his children. These are the feelings of the owner of the soil. Words cannot paint them; gold cannot buy them; they flow out of the deepest fountains of the heart; they are the life spring of fresh, healthy and generous national character.—*Edward Everett*.

An exchange says:—To the editor of a local newspaper these three things are among the most desirable:—Money letters, order for the paper, or for advertising or job printing, and last but by no means least, brief, pithy notices of local affairs from all parts of the country, where he has any subscribers. The life of a paper is in its local matters, and if subscribers in the several localities would pour a little news into the common fund, there would be a much richer supply to draw out of. The local correspondent is one of the most useful men on the staff of any journal, and no one appreciates his worth more highly than the editor.

A correspondent of the *Country Gent.* says:—"If care is taken in scalding black hogs, they can be dressed as white as white hogs. Hence in dressing black hogs the water should not be so hot as in scalding white ones. If this simple rule is observed, there will be no difficulty in dressing black hogs. Instead of this color being an objection, I regard it as an advantage, for the skin of a black hog will always be found to be smooth and glossy, free from cutaneous eruptions and always clean." This is sound. Water for daessing any hog should never exceed 109° Fahrenheit.

POTATOES AT \$4,000 A BUSHEL.—This is somewhat above our market quotations, but we have seen documentary evidence to prove that an offer has been made at the above rates. A gentleman in Vermont has raised a new potato which he represents as much earlier than any other variety. The potatoes being of fine quality, Messrs. Bliss & Son bought his stock, allowing him to retain half a peck; he entered into an agreement not to sell this half-peck of potatoes nor their produce until 1874. The raiser now writes that a neighbor has offered him \$500 for that half-peck of potatoes, and he wishes permission to sell them. The potato has not received a name, but it will be tried during the coming summer before putting it upon the market.

TO DESTROY THE CUCUMBER BUG.

A correspondent of the *Maryland Farmer* says: The following effectually protected my melon, squash, cucumber and other vines from the "striped or cucumber bug," the past season, with only one application, viz.: a strong solution of hen house manure to one and a half gallons of water—let it stand twenty-four hours and sprinkle the plants freely with it after sunset. The above was suggested to me by a negro woman living on my place, who has some practical experience in gardening, and has used it forty years, and has never known the first application to fail to drive them off, and they never return.

It will cost but little to try this, and we hope some of our readers will report the result to us next season.—[Ed.]