

## EARLY FATTENING OF ANIMALS.

It is quite as important to fatten and market economically the animal products of the farm as it is to raise them. A pound of beef, pork or poultry, can be made much cheaper in September and October than later in the season, when a larger part of the rations must go to keeping up animal heat. There is no sleight of hand in laying fat upon an animal's carcass. It must come out of good honest food in the rations fed. The temperature in the latter part of summer and early autumn is in favor of the best use of all the fattening articles of food, while there is enough of green food to sharpen the appetite and keep up good digestion. We have found green corn stalks, especially sweet corn, an excellent article in the sty, to be fed in connection with corn on the cob, and corn meal, and other rations. We have never seen pork made more rapidly than with this kind of feeding. It will be safe to feed all that the swine will eat up clean, and no more. Slack up the food a little when anything is left in the trough. This will require a little attention, but the pigs will grow so fast that one can afford to linger by the sty a few minutes, once in a day, to see the fat accumulate. Corn is high this season, and we want to make the best use of it. The best poultrymen we know begin to give extra feed in September, when they mean to kill in November. The thanksgiving market is pretty sure to be a good one, and brings ready cash. The small potatoes boiled, and mixed with Indian meal and hot water, make an excellent feed for turkeys and other poultry. This favors growth, as well as fattening. The rations of corn and other grain, unground, may be reserved to the last few weeks of life. Turkeys should have their liberty all through the extra feeding. Some poultrymen shut up their geese and ducks, but we doubt the economy of this method. With a good run they will have a great variety of food, and thrive better with an access to a pasture with pond or brook, while they are receiving full feed for market. All that the fattening animals will eat up clean is a good rule for the last month of feeding.

## BUCKWHEAT.

This plant is extremely sensitive to frost. The grain which is already matured, or nearly so, is not hurt, and the straw is not used for seed. The reason why frost is so injurious may therefore not be apparent, until we think, or notice, that upon almost every plant we have the seed in every stage of development, from the blossom to the ripe grain. When cut before frost, a great proportion of the unripe seed will develop perfectly, and the process of ripening does not seem to be hindered by the frost after the buckwheat is cut.

One afternoon, a stranger, observing a stream of people entering a church, approached a man of gloomy aspect, who was standing near the entrance, and asked, "Is this a funeral?" "Funeral! no," was the sepulchral answer. "It's a wedding." Excuse me," added the stranger, "But I thought from your serious looks that you might be a hired mourner."

"No," returned the man, with a weary, far-off look in his eyes, "I'm the son-in-law of the bride's mother and a widower."

Faith evermore overlooks the difficulty of the way, and bends her eyes only to the certainty of the end.

**DECEMBER.**—A very great number of people have gone to Manitoba and the North West, who would have done just as well if they had remained in Ontario or Quebec. Of course a great many are better off, with better prospects, but what we have said before we say again. There are thousands of acres of good land in Quebec which ought to come into the market, and could be brought under cultivation. We are aware that the area of cultivated land is very largely increased, but we want to see a better lot of farmers, who will not permit the massive heaps to lie for years untouched and wasting uselessly. Our French farmers are making some advances, but they go too much in the ancient tracks, and are not keen to take up and use the many improvements offered to the American and Canadian farmers.