

## Rural Architecture.

## Warmth and Convenience in Barns.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—Perhaps there is no other subject as much neglected by the Canadian farmer as a well ventilated, warm stable for stock, and few things are of more consequence in this severe climate, more especially since the partial failure of the wheat crop in various parts of the Province, and the increasing demand for manure to renovate the worn-out farms caused by the over-cropping with wheat; hence the necessity of raising stock in the most profitable way.

Some forty odd years ago I settled nearer the north pole than any other farmer in Upper Canada, and had ample opportunity of observing the effect of extreme cold on stock of all kinds; and I have ever been under the impression since I read Leibig's works that it was as expensive to feed stock in a cold place as for a family to live in a very cold house. With that idea I built a barn, a few years ago, on the side of a hill, 10 feet by 50, and some 42 feet high to the eaves,—the upper story is on a level with the farm, and is used as a barn for grain; the threshing floor is 24 feet wide, the half of which can be used for grain when the mows are full. The second story is for holding hay and straw, also six grain bins, with spouts to convey the grain from the threshing-mill to any of the bins, and trap doors for putting down either hay or straw.

The lower story is what I wish to draw attention to. It is built of stone, in four apartments on a level with the adjoining field. The front part is fitted up for horses and cattle, with proper separation; the back half is partitioned by stone walls in three divisions, two of which are frost-proof and devoted to holding roots, which are let down into different bins by spouts from the upper floor. The other apartment is lighted from the front stable and is found very useful to turn cows in when expected to calve. The height between floors is 11 feet, with ventilating holes which can be opened and shut at pleasure. The ventilation is perfect, yet the atmosphere is so warm that blankets are not used upon the horses. When the weather is severe all the stock are watered from a pump in the root-house, so that they suffer nothing from exposure, and come out in fine condition in spring on very indifferent feed.

The object in writing the above is to draw the attention of farmers who have not yet provided a comfortable place for their stock, as they lose much more than they are aware of by their animals eating extra food the want of growth in young cattle, and the loss of stock by poverty in spring. It often takes the best part of the summer to place those that live in as good condition as they were the previous fall. I look at the contrast. My horned stock had no hay and only roots up to Christmas. With the exception of the cows that were expected to calve in spring, their only food was wheat, oat, and pease straw, alternately; yet some of them were taken to Montreal in the month of May, along with some stall-fed animals for beef. Perhaps nature has provided few places so perfect for a barn, such as I have attempted to describe; yet where nature has not done so, surely human art can construct something that will give comfort to their animals and profit to themselves.

ANDREW DICKSON.

Fakenham, County of Lanark.

**THE PROOF WASH FOR SHINGLES.** The following simple application will no doubt prove of great value. We quote from the *Albany Knickerbocker*:—"A wash composed of lime, salt and fine sand, or wood ashes, put on in the ordinary way of white-washing, renders the roof fifty-fold more safe against taking fire from falling cinders or otherwise, in cases of fire in the vicinity. It pays the expenses a hundred-fold in its preserving influence against the effect of the weather. The older and more weather-beaten the shingles, the more benefit derived. Such shingles generally become more or less warped, rough and cracked; the application of the wash, by wetting the upper surface, restores them at once to their original or first form, thereby closing the space between the shingles; and the lime and sand, by filling up all the cracks and pores in the shingle itself prevents it from warping for years, if not forever."

## Correspondence.

## The Barometer.



SEVERAL correspondents have, at various times, made enquiry of us where a good farmer's barometer could be had at a low price. In former issues, we mentioned, in reply to these queries, Kendall's Barometer, of which, however, we could give no information beyond the name, and Randall's Weather Indicator, which is, properly speaking, a hygrometer, and is highly recommended by many who have tried it. We are now enabled to introduce to our readers a barometer manufactured and for sale by Charles Wilder, of Peterboro', New Hampshire. It is Woodruff's Patent Portable Barometer, and is said to be a very accurate and durable instrument. The *Scientific American* and other public journals speak in very high terms of it, and a number of agricultural authorities in the United States recommend it strongly as the barometer for

farmers. It is cheap, the prices ranging from \$6 to \$25, according to size, finish, &c. In the present state of the money market, a Canadian farmer may possess himself of one of these useful instruments at a comparatively small outlay. The manufacturer has, we understand, authorized Mr. A. Christie, of this city, to act as his agent for their sale, and orders sent to him will be promptly filled. The accompanying cuts represent two of the styles of these instruments, made by Mr. Wilder, one at \$10, and the other at \$15, American money. We have seen these two styles of barometer, and can testify that they are well got up, nicely finished, and make, each of them, a beautiful and ornamental piece of furniture.

It may not be amiss to add a few words in reference to the practical value of a good barometer. By indicating the sort of weather that may be approaching when farming operations of a critical character are going on, much loss may often be prevented. When hay or grain is exposed, and the barometer foretells an approaching storm, forewarned the farmer is forearmed, and secures his crop in time. It has been computed that an annual saving of five per cent. on all crops might be effected by the intelligent use of an accurate barometer. The following narration, which we find in a recent number of the *Rural Advertiser* furnishes a striking proof of the value and utility of this instrument. A Pennsylvania correspondent of the journal just named, says:

"Having a small patch (1½ acres) of white rye of particularly large and fine growth. I was desirous to have it housed in good order for seed. It ripened in hay harvest, was cut down one day and left lying in swath. The next morning being bright and clear, all hands were engaged cutting hay with both machine and scythes. After mowing some time, it occurred to the writer that he had neglected looking at the barometer before leaving the house. The machine was stopped, and on recurring to the instrument, a slight observation satisfied me that a change in the weather would take place within the next twelve or twenty-four hours, although there was not then a cloud to be seen. It was with some reluctance the hands left their mowing and went to work to bind up the rye. By one o'clock clouds had begun to gather, additional help was secured, and a team commenced hauling in. By about four o'clock it was clouded over and very threatening, and as the last load of sheaves passed into the barn, near sun-down, the rain commenced falling and poured down heavily through a great part of the night. The crop was saved and produced nearly, if not quite, \$75; the straw being bright and clean, was sold principally to nurserymen, and the grain for seed."

## Asparagus Beds.

"SIMPLEX" inquires whether a bed can be made out of old plants which he finds growing in hedges and ditches. This can be done by taking up the plants and removing from the root all the old and dead portions, preserving only the living crowns, which can be planted in a bed at suitable distances, and after the whole are planted out, should be covered with four or five inches of manure from the farm yard. This manure should be allowed to remain on the bed all winter, in the spring the coarser portions should be raked off, and the rest worked into the soil in the process of cultivation. These asparagus plants which appear to "Simplex" to be so unusually fine, will not continue to grow so luxuriantly when he has placed them in the bed, and cut them for use, unless well supplied with an abundance of fertilizers. The very best asparagus we have ever seen, was grown in a salt marsh near the sea shore, and received an annual top dressing of night soil. The plants were set in rows, four feet apart, and sixteen inches apart in the row. Thus each plant had plenty of room in which to develop its full proportions, by the rise and fall of the tide it was sufficiently watered, and the highly concentrated manure with which it was furnished, stimulated it into the most vigorous growth.

The cultivation of asparagus in the vicinity of large towns can be made very profitable. We have seen a statement of the products from seven acres and seven and a half rods of ground, in which the gardener stated that the crop was all put up in bunches four and a half inches in diameter, and sold in New York market at twenty cents per bunch. The greatest number of bunches sent to market in any one day, was four hundred and ninety-five. The total yield was ten thousand one hundred and twelve bunches. The cost of manuring, cultivating, harvesting, and marketing the crop was in round numbers seven hundred dollars, thus leaving him a profit on that year's crop of thirteen hundred dollars. The great secret of success in raising fine large asparagus that will command a good price, lies in giving the plants plenty of water and plenty of food.

**A PREFERABLE REMEDY.**—"John Mathews" says:—"Mr. John Snell, I should think, must have done an evil instead of good, in using vitriol to the udder of his sheep. The flower of the alder-bush, mixed with cream, made into a salve, will answer his purpose much better."

**INDIA RUBBER BEE GLOVES.**—"J. H. T." enquires:—"Can you inform me where India rubber bee gloves can be obtained, and the price, or where rubber gloves of any kind may be had?"

Ans.—We cannot; but perhaps some of our readers can.

**HOEING CARROTS.**—"A Subscriber" asks the following question:—"In hoeing carrots, how high should the earth be raised about them?"

Ans.—The earth does not require to be raised at all. Carrots should be cultivated on the level, all they require is to be kept clear of weeds, and to have the soil in a loose, friable condition about them.

**ANOTHER CURE FOR GRUB IN THE HEAD IN SHEEP.**—Robt. Richardson, of Wick, Brock, sends us the following receipt for the cure of this malady:—"1 oz. spirits of turpentine; 1 ounce spirits of hartshorn; ½ ounce camphor; mix together, and pour one teaspoonful into each nostril once or twice a day." He adds:—"I have cured thousands of sheep in Yorkshire, England, and in Canada, with the above, and have never known it to fail."

**ILLEGIBLE.**—A correspondent sends us a cure for ticks in sheep, which he says is "used by every farmer on the Cotswold Hills," but unfortunately we cannot decipher his writing, and to make a bad matter worse, he does not give his P. O. address, so that we cannot send his communication to be rewritten more legibly. We may add that it is no uncommon thing for us to receive letters which are useless from the same cause. In writing for the press great pains should be taken to write in a plain, distinct manner.