

FARMERS' CLUBS.

The Secretary, President, or any member of any Farmers' Club is hereby invited to send for copies of the Journal, (which will be mailed free), to distribute amongst its members with the view of forming clubs for the Journal—a list of ten subscribers, at least, could be got at every club in Canada. Clubs of five for \$4.00, and clubs of ten for \$7.50. Those subscribing now for 1887 will get the Journal for the rest of this year free.

Harvest Home of the Markham Farmers' Club.

For some years past this annual festival has been held at the "Seed Farm" of Mr. Wm. Rennie, Toronto, which is situated from that city 15 miles distant, not far from the Yonge street road, and in the township of Markham, county of York. It is usually held about the end of September, when the rush of farm work is past. This year this pleasant gathering convened on the afternoon of the 25th September, and was largely attended by people, both from the city and from the surrounding country.

The afternoon was spent in a free and easy way, everyone being at perfect liberty to do just about as he pleased. The old men talked politics and enlarged on the great issues of the day; the ladies gathered volumes of news beneath the leafy shades; the young men, in full dress, contended for the mastery at the manly game of lacrosse; and the young maidens watched them with an interest much greater than they were conscious of. Representatives of the *Mail* and *Globe* were smoking the peace pipe turn about all the afternoon. Some strolled about in the beautiful meadows, glad to get a full inhalation of country air, others inspected the lovely garden, having full license to pluck from its treasures at will. Some eyed again and again the magnificent stud of imported Clydes, and others clustered around the Maple Leaf Cornet Band, of Ellesmere, consisting of eighteen manly young men—all farmers' sons—listening to that music which in every age has awakened slumbering emotions relating to the good and the true.

Toward evening the whole gathering, in successive companies, sat down to an ample luncheon, prepared by Mr. Rennie, while those not thus engaged listened to the addresses that were being delivered. Amongst the speakers were the Hon. A. McKenzie, J. Cameron, of the *Globe*, Mr. Hambly, of the *Mail*, G. F. Frankland, the well-known cattle exporter, W. P. Page, W. Mulock, M. P., J. A. Donaldson, Emigration Department, C. B. Robinson, and A. Blue, of the Bureau of Industries, all of Toronto. The president of the club, Mr. Gibson, presided.

We left just when the softening shades were beginning to let down their curtains. The white paint of the dwelling, and the fences around equally white, and the moving forms of white-clad maidens, looked whiter in the dimness. The flags upon the buildings were flapping, stirred by gentle Markham breezes; conveyances lined the private ways, and hundreds of happy mortals made the beautiful lawns alive, the last rays of the setting sun throwing a sort of sacred halo over the one wide scene of innocent enjoyment.

Why are there not more harvest homes within our borders? Let us have hundreds of autumnal gatherings, such as that which is annually held at the "seed farm," and the country and its people will be all the better for them.

The Quebec Quarantine.

Sometimes we find our agricultural papers railing against this institution and the way in which it is managed, and we have ourselves admitted papers into the columns of the JOURNAL which have dwelt upon sundry acts of carelessness in reference to the changing of clothes by the herdsmen, and we believe there was truth in the statements then made. But where, we ask, would we be to-day without our quarantine? Why, the issues at stake are simply enormous. Had pleuro-pneumonia but once got a footing in the country, what would have been the result? From five to ten dollars per head would at once have been taken from the value of every one of the sixty thousand head of cattle that we are likely to send to

Britain next year, and the prestige of our country as almost the only land in the world where live-stock ailments are almost unknown, had been gone. We believe that the credit of the prevention of all this real loss, and the still greater loss of prestige involved, is to be given to the Quebec quarantine. The saving which it has thus brought to the country is more than will suffice to maintain it for centuries to come.

But what of the cry that has been raised that since importations of live-stock have brought pleuro-pneumonia into the country, therefore they should forever cease? Why, it is a foolish cry. If pleuro pneumonia and other live-stock diseases cannot get beyond the boundary of our quarantine, why should importations cease? It might as well be argued that because emigrants from a certain country brought with them the contagion from small-pox, that henceforth emigration from that land should cease. We believe that pleuro-pneumonia in Canada expired in the earthen urn that contains the ashes of the cremated herds of Messrs. McCrae and Allen, and so will it be where an efficient quarantine is kept in every instance.

But while our Government is to be congratulated on the issue of the present grave crisis, we cannot say so much for the price fixed upon by way of remuneration to the owners. One hundred and fifty dollars, the maximum sum allowed for slaughtered animals—at least so says rumor—is in many instances only a small proportion of their real worth. With the amendment of the act relating to this matter, we have but little more to ask for at the present time from the Government in reference to the quarantine.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

The Thoroughbred Horse.

BY JOHN DIMON.

The term thoroughbred as applied to horses does not (as I find many suppose) belong to but one class of horses, and these the thoroughbred race-horse, whose pedigree can be traced in an unbroken line from the oriental horse down to the race-horse of our time. When we hear people speaking of the "thoroughbred" Percheron, the thoroughbred Clydesdale, the thoroughbred Morgan, or the thoroughbred this or that, we know at once that such people are astray; but it seems hard to convince many even at the present day, that we have no "thoroughbred" trotters or pacers, or Morgans or Cleveland Bays; yet it is the fact that while we have what is termed full-breeds of these breeds or classes, they are not thoroughbreds. Imported Messenger, the great fountain-head of the trotting family of America, or even the world, was a thoroughbred racehorse, as was the imported thoroughbred horse Wildair, whose blood, intermingling with the best stock of our country at that time, became the fountain head of that most useful family of all, the Morgans. The renowned horse Lexington was a thoroughbred, and, taken all in all, the most noted of any thoroughbred stallion ever foaled on American soil. He was bred by Dr. Warfield, of Lexington, Ky., and was sired by the most famous horse of his day, "Boston," and his dam was the celebrated race mare Alice Cornael. Imported Lexington was perhaps one of the best bred and most popular thoroughbred imported stallions of our own time. I am pleased to be able to state that we have some most creditable descendants of his here in Ontario. The imported thoroughbred stallion Bonnie Scotland, was a good sire and left much valuable stock. Many of his descendants were possessed of good trotting action, and some of them were quite speedy in that way of going; and the name of Bonnie Scotland as well as those of the old blind hero Lexington, the beautiful Leaming-

ton, imported Consternation, and others (though all dead) shall be mentioned by children yet unborn as figuring to advantage in the pedigrees of many excellent horses away down in the scale of time beyond the ken of the writer, and many of the readers of this article—for with great horses as with great men, their deeds survive them, and often live in the memory of mankind for many years after the body has returned to its original dust.

The writer once owned (and lost while foaling) one of the most beautiful thoroughbred mares ever bred in America. She was sired by imported Bonnie Scotland, her dam was Kate Boston by Lexington, and her second dam, Ann Stevens by imported Finstee. This mare's name was Minnie Boston, and the writer raised several good foals from her, notably among which was the bay stallion Lord Canwell, by imp. Canwell. This stallion went to South America as a stock horse.

Minnie Russell by Privateer, now owned by Dr. Bowen, of Woodstock, Conn., was another good one, as is the breeder's little pet, Minnie Dimon, by the great trotting horse Thomas Jefferson, which has been perhaps justly styled the Trotting Whirlwind of the East. This mare, Minnie Boston, was a beautiful bay with full black points and a star, 16 hands high and a beauty, the losing of which at that time was very much like losing \$1,000 in any other property, as she was a regular breeder, and would well pay the interest and insurance on that amount. The Bashaw blood has produced or helped to produce some of our best trotting stock, although Bashaw himself was not a thoroughbred, but an Arabian. In fact we have had two imported Arabian horses by that name. The first, foaled about 1760, bred by the Emperor of Morocco, and presented to the Dey of Algiers, and finally through the Swedish consul, found his way to this country, but the Bashaw blood now coursing through the veins of some of our popular trotters of to-day were from that fine old horse Grand Bashaw, also an Arabian, foaled about 1816, and imported from Tripoli in 1820 by Joseph C. Morgan, and died at Newton, Pa., in 1845, after having stood near Philadelphia for some 25 years. The thoroughbred stallion, imported Diomed, foaled in 1877 in England, and imported into Virginia in 1799, when 22 years' old, was a most remarkable stock horse, and his influence as such is felt both in England and America till the present day. He was the sire (in America) of the great Sir Archy, a very distinguished horse of his day, and justly called the Goldolphin Arabian of America. He was a brown horse 16½ hands high, of great substance, and left an exceedingly numerous and very valuable progeny at his death, when 28 years old. The thoroughbred stallion American Eclipse, sired by Duroc, was also one of the very best horses ever produced in this country or on this continent, and was equally distinguished on the turf and in the stud. Foaled in 1814, he died in Kentucky in 1847. Imported Fearnought was also one of the best of the early importations from England to America, and in his 12 years of service in this country he left much valuable stock. Florizel, imported into Maryland in 1794, was a good stock horse, and some of our best Southern horses of to-day trace to him. Imported Glencoe, the great horse of the two continents, brought from England to Alabama in 1836, was considered one of the best the world had then produced, and his descendants are not to be despised to-day. Imported Traveler was also considered second to none in his time. He belongs to the earlier importations, and is still one of the most valuable landmarks in old pedigrees.