

"23rd May, 1868.—Made the weekly inspection of the farm. Went first to the Colt Ground, where the span of colts, now three years old, are growing into the future team. This place consists of four acres, fenced in with Black Ash pole or log fence, so high that they cannot jump over, and so strong that they cannot break through. This is the true way to prevent colts being breachy. The pasture is very rich, and is more than will be necessary to support the colts during the season.

"I noticed the Alsike clover particularly, which is now about five inches high. It possesses one unusual peculiarity, viz., that of doing best in the holes covered or nearly covered with water during the winter and spring. No doubt this is a valuable property as compared with red clover, which will not stand such hardship. Another thing to recommend its use is, that before timothy or red clover is ripe enough to cut for hay, the top flowers of the alsike are ripe, and shed their seed, which seem to catch at once and grow, as I find vast numbers of young plants only two inches high, the result of last year's haying. Our colt pasture is an uneven piece of land, and the roots and stumps not out sufficiently to enable us to level it yet."

This property of withstanding water in the winter and spring renders it a very useful plant for undrained farms, and reminds us of the native pice of the Alsike clover, which was first discovered in the ditches of the fortification of "Alsike," in Sweden.

#### FARM GLEANINGS.

California is expected to produce a very heavy wheat crop this year, the breadth of land sown being fully twenty-five per cent. more than last year.

A plantation of oaks comprising five acres, started thirty years ago, on the farm of Ben Perly Poore, at West Newbury, Mass., has made a fine growth. Some of the trees are now over forty feet high.

Orchard grass is receiving much attention among farmers in the Atlantic States. It is the earliest and latest of all grasses, and if properly managed with other grasses, is excellent both for pasture and hay.

The New England Farmer thinks that if farmers will make accurate comparisons between the profits of getting twenty tons of hay from twenty acres, and the same amount of the same variety of hay from ten acres, they will be much more likely to drain some of their lands than they will without such comparison.

The wheat prospect in Central Illinois is represented as very encouraging. The growing wheat stands thick upon the ground, and the recent rains and warm sunshine have given it a luxurious appearance. Growers predict the earliest harvest known since Illinois was settled.

Joseph Harris says a field he top-drained last winter, kept green during the whole summer, while other grass land was completely burned up. It produces more grass, at the time most needed, than double the number of acres of any of his other pastures.

A correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph says that his own experience and observation and that of his neighbors, show that small potatoes if planted may, for the first year produce nearly as good a crop as larger seeds; but if this plan is pur-

sued for more than one year, deterioration and a small crop of potatoes will be the result.

It is generally supposed that the ashes of pine wood is not so rich in alkalies as that of hard wood. In his "Muck Manual," Dr. Dana says that, "in equal weights, pine ash affords four times more alkali than the ash of hard wood." At the same time a bushel of hard wood ashes yield more alkali than a bushel of pine wood ashes; the ash of the pine being much the lightest. According to analysis, only about 13½ parts in a hundred of hard wood ashes are "soluble," while of the yellow pine fifty parts are soluble.

#### The Live Stock.

For the Ontario Farmer.  
SHORTHORNS.

BY MR. W. GOMERSALL, OTTERBURN, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

In resuming the subject of Shorthorns in the "Ontario Farmer," it may be well to advert to the fact that Cattle of all descriptions, have commanded high prices in England during the past year. Shorthorns have also, both pure-bred and otherwise, participated in the general improvement and in numerous instances exceptionally high prices have been made. As the remarks in this article have reference mainly to the ordinary class of pure shorthorns, it may be pretty safely assumed that any material advance in the general stock of the regular markets has a decided influence on the better classes above that standard, and as a natural consequence one of the best inducements is held out to breeders to improve their stock and steadily try to bring them as near to the standard of perfection as it is possible to attain to under the general adverse circumstances of those below the position of the opulent breeder.

So far as the breeding and rearing of Cattle is concerned, it may also be safely assumed that the best pay most; and yet how constantly we see even very extensive breeders make no effort whatever to raise the standard of their stock; but go on year after year, forgetting the annual story, told by the *accidentally* best heifer or cow, when she goes to market, and replenishes the pocket of her careless owner with an extra five or ten pounds. That animal cost as little in keeping, or may be a trifle less, than any of her companions. Perhaps she might have a stain or two of pure blood in the veins; and if so, her superiority is at once accounted for. Now this little episode brings the subject to that point which may fairly be said to be of the greatest importance in the rearing of Cattle;—the superior power in the digestive organs, possessed by the *Shorthorn* over the common and ordinary breeds.