

## Correspondence.

**"HUMBERFORD'S"** letter on Draining is in type and will appear in our next.

**QUERIES ABOUT DITCHES** will be replied to in our next.

**UNDERDRAINING.**—Some enquiries on this subject will be attended to in an illustrated article shortly.

**TO F. J. GRITS OFF CABBAGE.**—"Brinr" says: In the paper recommended on page 108 of THE CANADA FARMER, I have tried a leaf of soft maple, and found it answer the purpose.

**MARKET FOR DRESSED FLAX.**—"George Killingbeck," of Mount Webster, County of Leeds, wishes to know which is the best place in the Province to sell prepared and dressed flax?

**SICK ITEMS.**—A correspondent who forgets to tell us his name or place of abode, sends us the following information:—Mr. James J. Davidson killed a calf 15 months old this winter, which dressed 723 lbs. clear of head and neck.

Mr. W. Atkinson sold a 2-year old steer this Easter for \$75, and one last Christmas the same age for \$60.

**MUSCOVY DUCKS AND POLAND FOWLS.**—"Poultry-Fancier" can procure Muscovy Ducks, winners of the first and second prizes at the Provincial Fair, also Silver Polands, Black and Golden ditto, by applying to A. B. Box 338, St. Catharines P. O.

**LARGE YEARLING DURHAM.** J. T. says: I beg to give you the weight of a Short Horn bull I purchased from Mr. Snell, Chinguacousy, at the Kingston Exhibition last fall. He was calved on the 13th January, 1863, and I weighed him this spring at the Township Agricultural Show held here on the 28th April, when he was found to weigh 1,100 lbs., being at the time in rather low condition.

**BAROMETERS.**—"C. Foreman," of Biddulph, wishes to know where good Barometers suitable for farmers can be got, and at what price?

**ANS.**—We believe Kendall's Barometer is a good and cheap one, but do not know where it is kept for sale.

**ITALIAN BEES.**—"H. B." of Wolfe Island, wishes to get a swarm of *Italian Bees*, and asks where they are to be had.

**ANS.**—We doubt if a "swarm" can be obtained, as the supply of them is limited. The usual mode of getting into the breed is to obtain an impregnated queen. Those who have this variety for sale would do well to advertise.

**RECIPT WANTED.**—"Passus" writes as follows: "A reliable receipt for the washing of flannels without thickening and hardening them, would merit the thanks of many of your readers."

**LOST HAIR.**—"H. C. T. A." asks what will make hair grow on horse's leg?

**ANS.**—If the hair bulb is destroyed the hair will never be reproduced, therefore it is useless to apply any remedy. If the bulb is uninjured the hair will soon grow again.

**H. B., FRONTENAC COUNTY,** sends us a lengthy letter on the culture of apple trees. He recommends a deep sandy loam, not to plant too deep, to mulch both summer and winter, to support the trees by tying to a strong stake, and to keep the ground well drained. The subject has been already so thoroughly discussed, and the demand upon our space is so great, that we beg pardon for giving only this short synopsis of our correspondent's letter.

**THE BERBERRY.**—A correspondent sends us the old story that the Berberry caused "a blight" in wheat, and quotes a communication in the European Magazine for 1810, in which the writer appeals for confirmation to every respectable farmer in the counties of Suffolk and Berks. We had thought this idea fully exploded, but will be happy to receive any evidence on the subject.

He also asks whether the prickly ash would not make a good hedge plant. Can any of our readers tell him?

**EXPLANATION.**—We have received a communication from our esteemed correspondent "W. S.," in reply to some observation made by another correspondent relative to the plan suggested by "W. S.," of planting apple trees shallow and near together; but we have had such a demand upon our space that we have been unable to make room for it. And perhaps he will excuse us if we now omit it altogether, lest an honest difference of opinion become by reply and counter-reply a mere personal controversy. Our readers will "weigh all these things," and decide for themselves which course to adopt.

**"PETER PRUNING KNIFE."**—"P. Straw, Esq., of Grimsby, seems to take sadly to heart the playful article of Peter Pruning Knife, so much so that were we to publish his letter our readers would shrewdly suspect that the coat fitted only too well. But we cannot insert in THE CANADA FARMER any communication that endeavours to cast reflections upon the motives of our correspondents. The statements and arguments are open to fair criticism; the motive that induced a correspondent to write is personal to himself. There is enough of this thing in the political journals of the day—the domain of Agriculture and Horticulture lies in a purer atmosphere.

**BUCKWHEAT AS A GREEN MANURE.**—Two correspondents, one writing from Sarnia and the other from Mariposa, have sent enquiries on the above subject and our answer to both may be embodied in the same paragraph. Both ask what is the value of Buckwheat as compared with Clover for green manure? It is less valuable than clover, but ploughed in when in blossom, is beneficial to all soils which contain but little organic or vegetable matter. The seed is sown in June and harrowed in. About three pecks per acre is enough when sown for a crop, though some farmers sow a bushel broadcast. It should be sown more thickly when intended to be ploughed in. It is best adapted for poor, light soils.

**HOG CLASSES IN THE PRIZE LIST.**—"Essex" writes:—"It is very generally believed that the 'Large Breed' of Berkshires is obtained by a dash with the Yorkshires, and the 'Improved Berkshire' by a dash with the Essex. Now, if such be the case, is it proper that the Board of Agriculture should offer premiums for two classes of Berkshires and leave the Essex breed to compete among the 'All Other small breed class'?"

**ANS.**—Our partiality for the Essex would lead us to answer—"Decidedly not,"—though, fairly judged, we believe the Essex will hold its own among "all other small breeds."

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, JUNE 1, 1864.

### Farmers' Clubs.

These Societies have been established for many years in all the principal agricultural districts of Great Britain and Ireland, with the most satisfactory and valuable results. Similar advantages have been experienced in Canada where they have been fairly tried. Farmers are necessarily an isolated class, and they labour under the disadvantages incident to that condition. Much, however, might be done to remedy such a state of things, and we know of no better means than those which are afforded by Farmers' Clubs. No difficult or elaborate organization is required to effect the objects of such instrumentalities; every agricultural society has the means within itself, of accomplishing the desired results. If the members or any considerable portion of them, would meet some half-dozen times during the most leisure portion of the year, for the reading and discussing of papers on agricultural subjects, and comparing notes, very valuable consequences would arise.

We subjoin an extract from an address to the Wigton (England) Farmers' Club, which has been sent to us by a correspondent, and to which the attention of our readers is invited:—

"This Club professes to be a Farmers' Club, and, of course, it was intended to convey information to

every individual who was a member of that Club, as well as to give general information in the district. How difficult is this task, considering the number of views men take upon different subjects, and the state of agriculture at this present moment. Year by year the older of them were inclined to believe that the seasons were entirely altering in their character, and in the periods of the various changes taking place; and when they considered the different prejudices, the different styles adopted in the management of land, they would see that the difficulty must be great for agriculturists in general to arrive at such a position as might be reckoned partially secure. It did not follow, therefore, that this Club was not a wise movement, the greater the difficulty, the greater the necessity for union of intelligence. The great object was that they should be enabled to bring together the general knowledge that is diffused through the country, and make it bear upon every individual of the Club. With the diffuse views taken by agriculturists, owing to the great variety of land, owing to the different localities, owing to different pecuniary means possessed by agriculturists, nay, owing to the mental and physical constitution of the agriculturist himself,—how difficult did it become to generalize? It was in the pursuit of generalization that all the errors were taking place. One came before the Club to read a paper, honestly intended, honestly composed, and with the full vehemence and energy of his mind, he considered he was laying before the Club a mass of truths which were the result of his own observation and experience; and yet his views were possibly contradictions of the experience and opinions of his brother farmers. Was he, therefore, to be set down as a fool, or a knave, or an intruder? Decidedly not. If two men were standing in a room and a third struck the door, the two men would give different views of that action, though in all probability both their statements might be perfectly true so far as their line of vision affected the act. So it was in farming. If their experience had not been different the constitution of their brains had been different.

"Two men tried an experiment,—one of them took one point, and saw that to be a leading point, while the other never noticed that point, but thought another the most important, so they came before a jury, and both declared them different things altogether; they were not, however, to be set down as unobservant men. Every man saw every effort of life in his own particular light, and it might be an entirely different light from that of his neighbour. This was taking a philosophical view of human nature. Two men upon two sides of the fence might meet with entirely different circumstances,—one man might have drained with a drain running north-east, while another might have gone in another direction, and one struck the water and another missed it; there in the same soils different results were produced by the same operation differently directed. What would be good management for one farmer would be wrong for another. Indeed the varieties were so great that all agriculturists should feel slow and timid about laying down any dogged rule for others to follow, and every one should feel slow in condemning the views of another. If in their meetings they could look upon every effort made as that of a true friend, though they might think him an erring friend, what a happy family they should be. It was within the power of all of them to try and arrive at this; and if any man read a paper, and pointed out certain principles to be in his opinion correct, they should receive them with all kindness and gratitude. That was the way to improve; it was only by observation and study they could learn."

**AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**—We have received a circular from Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, President of the American Pomological Society, from which we learn that the Tenth Session of this Association will commence in CORINTHIAN HALL, in the City of Rochester, N. Y., on TUESDAY, September 13, 1864, at 12 o'clock, noon, and will continue several days. All Horticultural, Pomological, Agricultural and other kindred institutions in the United States and the British Provinces, are invited to send delegations, as large as they may deem expedient; and all other persons interested in the cultivation of fruits are invited to be present and to take seats in the Convention. Members and Delegates are requested to contribute specimens of the Fruits of their respective districts, and to communicate in regard to them whatever may aid in promoting the objects of the Society and the science of American Pomology.

Packages of Fruits may be addressed as follows: "American Pomological Soc. care of James Vick, Rochester, N. Y."