

them close to the ground, (and they ever should be) it will deprive the thistle of the necessary vegetation to sustain the root, thereby leaving the root to wither and die. Now, if any one should try the experiment, let him be particular to follow the directions.

I do not know as the above will be thought to possess any merit, and all the ambition or anxiety I have concerning it is, that farmers may get rid of their Canada thistles.

Respectfully yours, &c.

GAUIS STEBBINS.

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### BREAKING COLTS.

Sombody has said, "there is no man wholly evil," and we are inclined to the opinion there is no animal wholly or irreclaimably vicious. Many are made nearly so by unjudicious or brutal treatment, and the consequence of our own misconduct is charged upon the beast as instinctive or natural. The great secret in the management of all animals is gentleness; love, in this case at least, is more powerful than fear; and the animal soon learns that docility and submission go not unrewarded. Read, in *Burkhardt or La Martaine*, the manner in which the Arabs treat their horses, rearing them among their children, and frequently dividing their fast barley cake with them, and we cannot wonder that there are no vicious and unmanageable horses among them. The mares and foals not unfrequently occupy part of the same tent with the family and the children climb upon and fondle them without fear or injury. The affection and attachment between the Arab and his horse are reciprocal; the animal meets him with a neigh of pleasure, and bows his head to receive the expected caress. And throughout the country, it will be found that the man who treats his horses and other animals with the most kindness and attention, has them most docile and manageable, and the most free from vicious propensities. The following which we copy from a communication in the *Union Agriculturist*, written by Mr. Churchill, will better illustrate the effect of this law of kindness than any remarks of ours:

"My father, while I was young, kept a number of mares for raising colts, among which were two which we called pretty high strung; and the colts in that respect were generally after the mares. One of them in particular, after injuring two or three men in the neighbourhood by throwing them, he sold to a horse-dealer, who took it to Hartford, Conn., where it killed one negro, and nearly killed another in the same way, both noted for sticking to a horse's back. After these accidents, the driver sold the colt to go to the West Indies, where, as he said, there were plenty of negroes to kill. Having another colt of the same stock to break, my father was concluding to take strong measures to effect his object.

"I proposed trying more gentle means; told him that he had his smart riders, that could jump from the ground on to the back of a wild colt without touching a hand, and get thrown as quick. 'Give me Dowd,' said I, (a young man equally as clumsy as myself, but cautious, cool, and withal kind to animals,) 'and the colt, and we will try what we can do.' After laughing at us to his satisfaction, and some importunity on my part, he consented.

"We took the colt into a smooth pasture, where it was familiar with every object, and led him around the pasture very gently; then, when standing, Dowd put his left arm over the colt's back, and let it feel some of his weight; stood a few minutes in that position, the colt quite uneasy at first, but soon became pacified by kind treatment. I then took hold of Dowd's ankle when his foot was raised, and assisted him to place himself across the back of the colt. After remaining in this position some five or six minutes, he then gradually put his right leg over, and raised himself to a perpendicular position.

"We let the colt stand thus till it showed a disposition to walk forward. At first it would take but one or two steps, but soon found that it could move with a man upon its back. In one hour's time, Dowd rode the colt to the house without difficulty. During the whole time, we

were careful to treat the colt kindly; to make no sudden or quick motions to frighten it; and by all means not to vex it. This colt though extremely spirited, proved a safe animal to ride. So much we said, on our return to the house, for kind treatment; and so much I have found to be correct since in breaking colts, steers or heifers. It an animal, shows a disposition to fight, it must be conquered; after this is done effectually, kind treatment is the best."—*Boston Cultivator*.

### RULES FOR BREEDING.

Although there is a great discrepancy of opinion upon some portions of the mysterious art of breeding, the following precepts from the pen of one of the most distinguished anatomists in Europe, Professor Cluc, are, we believe, universally received as established doctrines amongst those who have the best right to blow; although dame nature sometimes amuses herself in setting at naught the most ingenious theories of philosophers.

When the professor objects to large bones he must not be misunderstood. From the bone and muscle, strength is derived, and, we presume the greater the quantity of either, the greater will be the strength of the animal; but the quantity is not always to be measured by size; indeed, as Mr. Cluc remarks, they are generally found in an inverse ratio. In some animals a much greater quantity, both of muscle and bone, is condensed into a much smaller space than in others, and this constitutes the great physical difference between the Arabian and their descendants, commonly styled "blooded horses," and those of other descriptions. The ivory of the blooded-horse will always outweigh, though it will never outmeasure, the open, porous bone of the cart horse. But where the density of fibre is equal, size will indicate quantity, and therefore, strength. With equal quality of bone and muscle then, the largest animal will always be the most powerful. With this commentary, we give to our readers the Professor's opinions upon following subjects:—

"**Muscles.**—The muscles and tendons, which are their appendages, should be large: by which an animal is enabled to travel with greater facility.

"**The Bones.**—The strength of an animal does not depend on the size of the bones, but on that of the muscles. Many animals with large bones are weak their muscles being small. Animals that were imperfectly nourished during growth, have their bones disproportionably large. If such deficiency of nourishment originated from a constitutional defect, which is the most frequent cause, they remain weak during life. Large bones, therefore, generally indicate an imperfection in the organs of nutrition.

"**On the Improvement of the Form.**—When the male is much larger than the female, the offspring is generally of an improved form. For instance, if a well-formed large ram be put to ewes proportionally smaller, the lambs will not be so well shaped as their parents; but if a small ram be put to larger ewes, the lambs will be of an improved form.

"The proper method of improving the form of animals consists in selecting a well-formed female, proportionably larger than the male.—The improvement depends on this principle: that the power of the female to supply her offspring with nourishment is in proportion to her size, and to the power of nourishing herself from the excellence of her own constitution.

"The size of the fœtus is generally in proportion to that of the male parent, and therefore when the female parent is disproportionably small, the quantity of nourishment is deficient, and her offspring has all the disproportions of a starveling. But when the female from her size, and good constitution, is more than adequate to the nourishment of a smaller male than herself, the growth must be proportionably greater. The large female has also a greater quantity of milk, and her offspring is more than abundantly supplied with nourishment after birth.

"To produce the most perfect formed animal, abundant nourishment is necessary from the earliest period of its existence until its growth is complete.

"The power to prepare the greatest quantity of nourishment from a given quantity of food de-

pends principally upon the magnitude of the lungs, to which the organs of digestion are subservient.

"To obtain animals with large lungs crossing is the most expeditious method, because well-formed females may be selected from a variety of large size to be put to a well-formed male of a variety that is rather smaller.

"**Examples of the Good Effects of Crossing the Breed.**—The great improvement of horses in England arose from crossing with those diminutive stallions, Barbs and Arabians; and the introduction of Flanders mares into this country was the source of improvement in the breed of cart-horses.

"**Example of the Bad Effects of Crossing the Breed.**—When it became the fashion in London to drive large bay horses, the farmers in Yorkshire put their mares to much larger stallions than usual, and thus did infinite mischief to their breed, by producing a race of small-chested, long-legged, large-boned, worthless, animals."—*Southern Planter*.

### TIMBER.

It is said the best time for felling timber for mechanical and building purposes, is in the months of December and January, while the sap is down; it will last longer, cut then, and is less liable to be attacked by worms and insects. It is also said that trees stripped of their bark during the months of May or June and left standing till winter, and then cut, will do still better,—makes the most heavy, solid timber, that oven the sap is then good. Oak and some other kinds of trees might, perhaps be stripped in summer to advantage and the bark saved for tanning.—Soaking in salt water is recommended by some as imparting strength and durability. *Water seasoning*, either in salt or fresh water, is no doubt a good practice; as this mode extracts all the native sap and leaves the fibres of the wood so porous or a certain somehow, that when taken from the water it dries very rapidly and equally, and is rarely known to crack. In some lumber ports they have docks constructed for the express purpose of *water seasoning*, so to speak.

Timber may be seasoned and preserved from cracking by putting it in a hay mow in haying time and leaving it till winter, or by covering it in any other way, effectually securing it from the immediate action of the atmosphere. The hay mow method of seasoning answers very well for such timber as is used in carriage making.—The best time for cutting timber, as to its age, is when it is in its prime; it is not so good, too young or too old. Some have told us, that such timber as is to be exposed to water, or to frequent wetting should be cut in the *increase* of the moon; and that intended to be kept dry should be cut during the moon's *decrease*. In setting posts for fence and other purposes, it is ascertained they will last longer set stump end down; and as a preservative, lime or wood ashes is recommended to be used plentifully in the hole where set. Sand also may be used with the lime or ashes, mixed as a mortar or otherwise, if the ground be clayey.

I have no more to offer at this time; if upon further thought and reflection on the subject, more occurs to mind, I may communicate it.

B. F. WILBUR.

—[*Farmer & Advocate*.]

**LIME WATER TO KILL WORMS.**—To six quarts of water add half a pound of caustic lime, and after letting it stand a few minutes, commence watering the ground infested by worms, and they will soon be seen rising to the surface writhing about, and will die in a few minutes, especially if a little more of the lime water is then sprinkled on them.

**TO MAKE FRENCH ROLLS.**—Take a spoonful of lard or butter, 3 pints of flour, a cup of yeast, and as much milk as will work it up to the stiffness of bread; just before you take them from the oven, take a clean towel and wipe them over with milk.