

Grass for Pasture.

SIR,—In your last issue the question is asked as to "the best grass to sow for pasture," to which you reply by suggesting "to sow a small portion of Orchard Grass (Cocksfoot), and Red Top (Blue Grass) mixed with other grass." Allow me to suggest to you that Red Top and Blue Grass are not identical. The Red Top of the West is the *Poa serotina*, and the Red Top of the East is the *Agrostes vulgaris* of botanists. We think the Western Red Top the best for pasture. Blue Grass is the smooth-stalked meadow grass of England—the *Poa pratensis* of botanists, and perhaps the pasture grass of the world. Red Top will grow in any dry soil, but it delights in wet ground, and will grow where no other pasture grass will grow, viz., in swamps. Orchard Grass is desirable for winter forage for stock in the open field. It will grow in woodlands in the midst of underbrush and bushes, and where allowed to grow through summer, the stock will feed upon it in the winter, gathering from the brush when grown, and then it affords an early spring pasture.

The best mixture of grasses for a permanent pasture is Kentucky Blue Grass (*Poa pratensis*), Red Top (*Poa serotina*), Orchard Grass (*Dactylis glomerata*), in equal parts.

J. M. McCULLAGH.

Norwood, Ohio, Sept. 7th, 1875.

[In the September number of the ADVOCATE, the phrase—"were you to sow a small portion of Orchard Grass (Cocksfoot) and Red Top (Blue Grass) mixed with other grass," should have been "were you to sow a small portion of Orchard Grass (Cocksfoot), Red Top and Blue Grass mixed with other grass seeds." For a permanent pasture, the grasses we have named form the best mixture, but or one year's hay, succeeded by pasture for some years, they would not be found sufficient. Orchard Grass, valuable as it is for mowing and pasture, does not yield its heaviest produce till after the first year. The great value of Blue Grass throughout America is for pasture; it is little worth for hay, though in England in all the old meadows it forms a principal part of the hay. To sow for pasture and to mow the first year we would recommend, as already said, Orchard Grass, Blue Grass and Red Top, with a few pounds of Timothy Grass, and Red Clover 4 lbs., and White Clover 2 lbs. per acre. The Timothy Grass and Red Clover will add much to the produce of the year's hay, and as they disappear from the pasture their places will be occupied by the other grasses and the White Clover. Of all the grasses properly so called, we consider none better for pasture in many respects than the Blue Grass. It is "the smooth-stalked meadow grass" of Britain, and retains its rich verdure throughout the year. Orchard Grass withstands the effects of the drought of our continent better than the Blue, and in this it has the advantage; it also makes an earlier growth and produces a greater quantity of food.—Ed.]

Oil Meal.

SIR,—Be kind enough to let me know, 1st—If oil meal would be good for feeding lambs when first weaned; 2nd—Whether a little would be good for colts one and two years old; and lastly, where and for what price may it be obtained? I saw a short account of it in the ADVOCATE, but did not learn these few particulars. By informing me you will very greatly oblige.

ALEX. CONNOR.

Springfield, Aug. 17th, 1875.

[Oil meal is a good food for all young stock, but should be used in moderation. It is very nutritive and salutary when so used. It is sometimes used, and with very good effect, as a remedy for constipation and costiveness. Have been enquiring, and find that oil cake, ground, can be purchased here at 2c. to 3c. per pound. Oil meal (that is, the seed impressed and ground) is not to be had here. The value of oil meal and oil cake is not sufficiently appreciated in this new country. It is prepared for use by pouring boiling water on it in a tub or pail, and covering it up for a short time with a cloth, that the steam from it may be retained.—Ed.]

From Sarawak.

August 26, 1875.

SIR,—I wrote you on the 13th inst., on the subject of "Lightning Rods," and also some remarks respecting the effects of sheltered situations as regards frost. Another illustration of these observations has lately occurred:—On the night of Sunday, the 22nd inst., a sharp frost occurred in the rear concessions, but there was not the slightest appearance of frost on my farm, or on those adjacent fronting on the bay. We escaped the hoar frost also. At sunset, on the 22nd, the thermometer on the north side of my house stood at 55°, one degree higher than when the hoar frost occurred.

The destruction of insectivorous birds is to be regretted. It is forbidden by law, then why is it not prevented? I can only suppose because it is everybody's business to enforce the law, and nobody attends to it. As for those persons who have a license from the Government to shoot birds for so-called scientific purposes, I can only say that as their licenses to shoot can give them no right to trespass on a farmer's ground, so if I found any person shooting small birds on my farm, I should warn him off as a trespasser, and if he refused to go, I should bring him before the nearest magistrate on a charge of trespass. As for farmers' boys shooting small birds, the fault is not their's so much as their parents', who neglect to train them up properly; and if they will allow their sons to grow up worthless vagabonds, they must take the consequences.

As the season for green apples has come round again, and the irrepressible small boy who would seem to have been born with a natural propensity to steal apples is on hand again, I offer the result of my own experience in this matter, and advise those who wish to prevent their choice fruit from being stolen and their trees broken down by nocturnal biped depredators, to follow my example, and give them some. The first year my apple trees came into bearing, I desired a neighbor to notify any youngsters in his vicinity who might want some apples to come and ask for them, as I did not wish them to think that they could get no apples from me unless they stole them. They never did come to ask for any, but whenever any of them called at the house on other business, I gave them some, and occasionally sent them some, as opportunity offered. Just as I expected, although my trees have been repeatedly loaded with fruit, apples, pears and grapes, yet none have been stolen; and certainly I have not had to give away one quarter as many as I should have had, stolen, had I acted differently, whilst others, who have acted on a different principle, have had their fruit stolen and trees broken down, and if they did not keep good watch dogs, would have but a small quantity of fruit for their winter use. I would not be annoyed as they were for all the fruit in the neighborhood twice told. If you doubt the efficiency of my method of saving my fruit, just try it once.

Harvest is progressing slowly, but the crops generally promise well. I have heard that some farmers who procured the Scott Wheat from me last year, are not well pleased with it. One farmer who sowed both Treadwell and Scott Wheat, plowed up the Scott Wheat in the Spring, whilst the Treadwell has given a fine crop, besides they say it shells out too much, as indeed it does. Myself and one of my neighbours procured our Scott Wheat from the same person two years ago, and tried that and the Treadwell in adjacent fields with the same results. On both our farms the Treadwell Wheat was more severely winter killed and more affected by the rust than the Scott Wheat. We have no rust, and not much midge in our wheat this year. I think the nights have been too cool for them, and if the wheat yields well in the threshing, we shall have plenty to be thankful for, but not much to complain of, especially with the present prospect of better prices than we had last year. As for our barley, the trade in that is in so few hands, that a combination amongst the buyers may reduce the price at any time, and here I may ask the question, if the American Government were to admit our grain duty free, should we be any the better for it? Nine-tenths of the Fall Wheat raised in Ontario is sold in the State of New York, principally in the rich cities which line the banks of the Erie Canal—not more than one tenth is marketed in Montreal. We have to sell our Fall Wheat and Barley to the Americans, because we can sell these grains nowhere else, and they buy from us, and pay their own import duties also, because they

cannot get them of equally good quality anywhere else. They buy as much as they want now, and if the import duties were taken off, they would buy no more than they do, and it is at all likely they will ever pay more than they can help? If they do, they must be greater simpletons than I take them for—catch brother Jonathan a weasel asleep if you can. The high prices obtained for barley last winter, may have induced our farmers to sow a greater breadth of land than usual with barley this year, and I should not be surprised if the dealers in that article take their revenge for the high prices of last winter, and break down the market now. If it suits their purposes they certainly will, but that is no reason why we should raise less barley in future. As a feed for horses it is more nutritious than oats. "Buy the big horse, barley will make him swift," say the Arabs, who feed their horses principally on barley. As a feed for pigs, it makes better pork than pease, and I may say the same as regards feeding cattle also. As for the advertised cattle feeds, I have no faith in them; I procured a dollar tin of Cattle Feed two years ago, as I was feeding a cow for family use, it was mixed with chopped feed, (pease and oats,) strictly according to the printed directions. For a week or two the animal ate the chopped feed very well, and then refused it altogether; we discontinued the cattle feed for a time, and then tried it again, with the same result, and I have the greater part of that cattle feed on hand now. A Michigan girl is said to have tried mixing some condition powder in a drink of cider one evening, for her beau, who was rather cool in his wooing, to make him lively, as she expressed it, but with the same result as giving the feed to my cow, it did not answer at all.—C. JULYAN.

Buckthorn.

SIR,—Can you inform me of the best way of raising Buckthorn from the seed, and whether it is to be sown in the fall or spring? I also want the same information with regard to White Thorn. By giving the above information in your next paper you will much oblige.

ARCHIBALD STEWART.

Bristol, Aug. 28th, 1875.

[Of Hawthorn, or Whitethorn, as it is also called, the haws are gathered as soon as they are ripe and stored in a pit, covered pretty deep with earth, where they remain till spring. By this means they ferment, so as to make it possible for the kernel to germinate and the tender germ to make its way to the free air and light, and without this process it would remain imprisoned in its shell. Suffering the haws to dry would destroy the vital principle. Buckthorn berries, we presume, are treated in the same manner, though we have not had the same experience with them as with the haws.—Ed.]

Butter Making.

SIR,—I saw an article in a number of your paper headed "Making Butter in Winter." The process thus laid down is attended with considerable trouble and expense, in keeping the room to a proper temperature and removing the pans to a room to go through the heating process upon the stove. The object of butter making is to get the best and most butter from a given quantity of milk with the least trouble and expense. I have had considerable experience in winter butter making, and I am satisfied I can make more butter from milk strained into pans and put where it will freeze solid. When it is time to remove the cream, I bring the pans into a warm room; when the cream has softened a little so it can be conveniently removed, I take it off from the milk, and there is not a particle left on the milk that butter can be made from. By this method I am satisfied I can make more butter from the same quantity of milk than by any other, and of better flavor, for it is removed entirely from the odors of the kitchen, or anything that it could partake of to change its flavor.

C. W.

Stanbridge, P. Q.

[Our fair correspondent will, we hope, excuse our holding back her contribution till now, when the time for making butter being nigh, the lesson taught from her experience is more seasonable than if published earlier. We hope to have other contributions in good time from "C. W."—Ed.]