

course of any superfluous waters from higher grounds, by effective trenches.

REMEDIES FOR INFILTRATION AND EVAPORATION.—To guard against infiltration, let the yard, and especially the excavated portions of it, receive a thorough coating (if nature has not been beforehand in supplying one) of the purest clay at command; and to escape the mischiefs of evaporation, furnish it with an abundance of litter, such as refuse straw, orts, weeds, and leaves from the forest, together, with muck, surface-soil from the road-sides, hedges and ditches, or any other convenient matters of a porous nature, to absorb the liquids, and protect the whole mass from the influences of the atmosphere. A further security still, will be found in occasionally strewing the yard with plaster, which, by combining with the volatile portions of the manure, and converting them into salts not volatile, will rob the atmosphere of that portion of its prey.

REMEDY FOR FERMENTATION.—Having taken the above precautions, little danger need be apprehended from excessive fermentation, except in case of considerable piles of horse-dung; and here it will be very easy to avert the evil, either by occasionally spreading open the heaps, or, what is far better, by interlarding them at proper intervals, with muck, or surface-soil, which will not only effect the object in question, but, by absorbing the juices of the pile, become of equal value with the dung.

The markets have continued without much variation in prices during the winter—nor is it probable they will change now to any great extent. Beef and mutton are rather higher, but in pork and veal there is scarcely any difference in price. The grain market has been stationary throughout the winter; the price of wheat and flour moderate, and of other grain much too low. Oats are rather higher, but still at a low rate. There is a large consumption of this article in consequence of the number of horses kept in and near Montreal, and of its extensive use in distillation. Potatoes are not high, though we think they will rise in price in spring, as a large portion of them were lost in the fall, before they could be taken up and secured. The hay and straw markets have been largely supplied, and prices moderate. It will depend in a great degree upon the early commencement of spring, whether the price of these articles will advance or not. As the farmers will probably sow a large quantity of wheat this year, it is not likely that so much hay will be brought to market the next year, and the price may advance to something like a fair remuneration, which it never gives when under from six to eight dollars the hundred bundles, and for straw in the same proportion.

The month of March has been very moderate and little snow fell—there is, however, a considerable quantity still covering the land, and we need not expect it will all disappear for several days, unless the weather becomes much warmer than at present. The roads in the neighbourhood of Montreal, are much broken up, and sleighing difficult. In the city, wheel carriages have been some time in general use. We must expect bad roads in the country, neither fit for wheel nor winter carriages, as in some places there remains a large quantity of snow, while in others it is nearly gone. We have had a long winter, of full five months up to this time, which is very unusual. On an average of

many years, the snow does not cover the ground more than four months, in the cultivated parts of Canada. We believe it would be advantageous that our lands, roads and rivers should be covered with snow and ice from the 1st of December to the 1st of April, but when it happens that the winters continue from five to six months, it shortens the working season very much and inconveniently for the farmer. It is impossible to conjecture, with any pretension to accuracy, what sort of season the ensuing one may be, but we may hope it will be a favourable one for the farmer, as the winter has been cold, and a large quantity of snow has fallen. Farmers will require to use great exertion when work is possible in the fields, because most of them have ploughing to be executed, which they were prevented from finishing last fall, by the early commencement of winter. Much will depend upon the favourable state of the weather. More work can be done in one month of fine weather than in two of wet and changeable weather, and it can also be much better executed.

The following selection from Low's Agricultural work, on the weight of cattle, may be interesting to farmers:—

The parts of an ox to which the term *offal* is usually applied are the head and feet, the tallow, the hide and horns, and the entrails.

The fat of an ox, it has been said, is that unctuous substance which is intermingled with, and surrounds, the muscles and other parts. That which grows internally is mostly termed tallow, and is generally considered to be of the same value, weight for weight, as the flesh of the fore-quarters; and so likewise is the hide. These and the other parts, termed *offal*, are commonly regarded as forming about one-fifth of the value of the animal. When beef is said to be sold at a certain price *sinking the offals*, the meaning merely is that the whole price of the animal is reckoned upon the carcass alone; hence, when beef is sold at a certain price *sinking the offals*, that price is more than if it were sold without including in it the price of the offals.

That portion of the ox which is used for food, exclusive of the offals, is usually termed the quarters, because the animal, on being cut up, is divided into four parts or quarters. The most esteemed parts for food are the hind-quarters. These weigh somewhat less than the fore-quarters; though the more perfect form of the animal is, the more nearly do the fore- and hind quarters approach in weight.

Practice enables persons to judge of the weight of animals by the eye alone; but it is convenient to be able to ascertain the weight by measurement. This may be done with considerable correctness in the following manner:—When the animal is standing in a natural position, measure his length in feet from the foremost upper corner of the shoulder-blade in a straight line to the hindmost point of the rump; then measure the girth or circumference immediately behind the fore-legs; multiply the square of the girth by the length, and this product by .238, which will give the weight of the quarters in stones of 14lb. each. This rule has been arrived at by regarding the body of the animal as a cylinder, and determining, by experiment, what proportion, on an average, the actual weight of the quarters of animals bears to the cylinder.

Another method of ascertaining the weight of fat cattle, is, by weighing them when alive. One-half of the live-weight may be considered as equal to that of