

STOCK AND MANAGEMENT.

Different opinions are entertained as to the most eligible kind of stock. If I should undertake to determine which is the best, I might get into a question which it would require great ability to discuss. Ayrshire breeds are good milkers, but the best that I have ever read of are the Durham, or Short Horns. It matters little, however, which you select: take deep milkers from both sides, and you are sure of success for dairy purposes.

In rearing calves, take them from the cows when from four to six days old, and feed with milk until cheese making comes on, which will be between 20th and 25th May. Then feed whey with a little shorts, or, what is better if it can be obtained, flax-seed boiled, and put a small quantity in the whey. Rear only the best calves. It is the practice in this country to sell the best to the butchers for a few shillings, and keep the poor ones; and this is the way that our stock deteriorates, and becomes almost worthless.

Cows, horses, and sheep should not be put together in one field, because the horses and sheep bite closer than the cow, and select the sweetest grasses. It is supposed by some, and gravely argued too, that letting stock run out in winter is the best way. But good sheds to lie under, and plenty of litter to lie upon, is far better. It has been maintained that wages are too high to admit of housing or stalling in this country or province. But on fair trial it is proved to a demonstration that housing or stalling is a far superior practice to that of letting the big and the little run together; because the stronger gets the best of the food, while the weaker are driven from place to place by the strong; the consequence being that when spring comes, the small are too poor to live, and indeed as often die as live. By more judicious management, by feeding with cut straw and roots, in stalls, this difficulty is obviated, and the plan is every way superior to that followed in general by feeding hay and straw whole.

The cow should be fed somewhat extra before calving. For a week or so bran mashes should be given, with roots and hay.

Sheep should engage more attention than is in general given them. Most people feed with hay and straw only, and when spring comes the flock is so poor that the fleece is almost worthless, as well as deficient in quantity; whereas, if fed with roots and kept better, the fleece would be almost double in weight and treble in quality.

The horse, the noblest of all our animals, and most useful, is too often poorly fed; not that they are generally kept on insufficient food, but that they get it so irregularly, and that the hay is fed to them whole. It should be cut to chaff by machine, mixed with the provender, and measured or weighed to them. The horse will then act in half of the time, and rest adequately to perform the duties assigned him.

A FARMER OF ELIZABETHTOWN.

WHEAT AND CHESS!—TRANSMUTATION.

MR. EDITOR,

In your Prospectus you invite farmers to subscribe and write for the *Agriculturist*. The former I have done (and induced several others to "do likewise"). The latter I find a more difficult task.

The paper written by your Elizabethtown friend in your last number, shows that he is a practical farmer and writes from experience—the best authority—except in one case, where he infers that wheat does not turn to chess. Now, sir, you will probably laugh at me, as I have done at others for advocating the transmutation of wheat to chess, but facts are stubborn things, and I will give you one.

There was a straw found when harvesting in our neighborhood on which grew some fifty or sixty grains of wheat (I have forgot the number), and thirty-six grains of chess. For a better description I would refer you to the editor of the *St. Catharine's Journal*, who himself saw it, and noticed it in his paper. Like one of old, I had to feel it before I could believe, and I am satisfied there was no deception. It was kept for some time for the inspection of the curious, and I believe is still to be seen in the finder's "old curiosity shop." It necessarily follows that wheat must produce chess or chess wheat, when one straw produced both.

Since seeing the above oddity, I have been experimenting on wheat and chess. But like produces like in spite of all the ill treatment I can give them. If the cause of its turning could be discovered, no doubt the ingenuity of the age could find a cure; so that we need no longer say erroneously that wheat turns to chess.

Yours, &c. P. GREGORY.

Vine Cottage, Louth, May 14, 1850.

[We are obliged to our correspondent for the interest he takes in our paper, and shall be happy to receive further communications from him. In the *transmutation theory* we confess ourselves unbelievers. The support which it derives from the observation of facts, when searchingly made, will be found to be only apparent; while the principle, which the theory involves, is altogether incompatible with the analogies and harmony of nature. Oats, as well as Chess, have been found embedded in an ear of wheat, which to a cursory observer, would seem to imply the transmutation of the latter into the former; while the naturalist by a rigid examination is enabled to detect the accidental manner of the connexion. We have no doubt that a scientific botanist, could satisfactorily explain the case, which our correspondent adduces. Editor, *Agriculturist*.]