

showing what high blood, and skilful and liberal feeding combined, will accomplish; and to such an extent has this sometimes been carried, that many a breeder has been induced (injudiciously as I think) to sacrifice his best breeding animals in the accomplishment of it; but which enabled him to show to the world the extraordinary disposition of his herd, or his flock, to make weight in a short space of time, with high feeding, or with only ordinary food, and thereby to induce purchasers of his stock.

This has been the chief object of owners of improved breeds, in fattening their animals to such prodigious weights. Besides, there was a time, more particularly so than now, when the fat from these animals was more valuable than the lean, and, in fact, it is so in part, even at the present time. Coal oil was not then heard of, and other oils were beyond the reach of the million, and before we were in the enjoyment of gas, the tallow from fat sheep and cattle was as necessary to our use in "lighting our darkness," as other substitutes are now.

And even at the present time, there are many uses found for the surplus fat of all animals in this country, as well as throughout the world.

I do not therefore see the utility of discouraging the feeding of some animals to extreme fatness, by withholding prizes from them, for most assuredly, *we have far more of the lean kind than of the fat.* Though extreme feeding, like many other extremes, is often carried too far! I do not however err when I say that thousands of others, as well as myself, prefer the lean of a well fattened animal to that of a poor, and half fattened one. Let not, therefore, I should say, the breeding and feeding of fat animals be discouraged by withholding premiums from them. Let the high-blood have a chance of showing itself, and my word for it, the saying of the "good old Duke," in choice of a charger will be verified "an ounce of blood any time, against a pound of bone!"

Besides, breeders can never know the real value, or constitution of their stock, unless they do *occasionally* try what they can produce by high feeding.

I shall only just briefly allude to one other subject immediately connected with the progress of our agriculture in this province, and then bring this, already too long a letter, to a conclusion, and which I think will go far to show how little ground there is for any one to infer that there is little or no good tillage of the soil, or that we are not progressing as we ought, considering we are but a new country. Not, but what there are doubtless many farms slovenly managed; no one can controvert that; but, let me ask, are there not num-

bers in England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as amongst our cousins across the lines? Undoubtedly there are, and there always will be.

The one subject more, that I am about to revert to, is, that of our ploughing matches in western Canada.

Does not the emulation of our farmers in this branch of our industry speak volumes? Where else will you find such work done, and such teams shown as at these exhibitions in so young a country? The work executed on these occasions, would do credit to any country, and it is an extremely gratifying reflection that the zeal and energy of the *youth* of the province, in this particular, yearly increases, as I have myself seen. Much of their work on many occasions, being little, if any inferior to the senior ploughmen. Such teams, such ploughing, and such bone and sinew of the country as have been shown at the Scarborough, Markham, Whitby, and other ploughing matches may fairly vie with any country in the world, to say nothing of what takes place in other counties. Why, it was but the other day, a few miles from Guelph, that a similar gratifying scene was witnessed, when upwards of *sixty ploughs* started for competition! and the amount of premiums awarded was, I think, little short of two hundred dollars! It is hardly necessary to say that by every ploughman the work was most creditably done.

I trust, Sir, that if this letter should meet the eye of the writer of the article to which this is somewhat of a reply, he will *feel* that he has unwittingly misrepresented facts, and has in a great measure, underrated the efficiency and persevering energy of the tillers of the soil in this favored country. Even bearing in mind that the high rate of wages here has operated, and will for years to come, operate disadvantageously in no small degree, to the desired advancement of agriculture.

I would gladly, and at length, allude to the great stride our twin sister, *Horticulture*, is making amongst us, but as my letter is already far too long, I must only say, that towards it, in some districts, the *Farmer* very materially adds his quota, and, every year, this much desired branch of our industry is greatly increasing amongst us. And to those professional and amateur gentlemen, who have been for some time past taking the lead in this important matter, our best thanks are due for the liberal and kind manner in which their experience and knowledge is conveyed to us, *without stint*, by you, through your valuable journal. This, too, will go some little way to show that we are not a stand still community.

One word to the would be destroyers of our cherished and valued University, and I have done. That their scheme will be frustrated by the honesty and good sense of Par-