

were then called, they were an ungainly lot, with papery hides, and their only good property was that the cows gave a large quantity of milk, but its quality was very poor. What does the Country-mouse give his guest when the Town-mouse visits him at his villa?

Cheese, such as men in Suffolk make,
But wished it Stilton for his sake.

Though I dare say, the practice of several skimmings and the bad subsequent manipulation had a good deal to do with the admitted inferiority of the cheese. Suffolk, of course, was a butter county. Can any body tell me if cheese is ever used now-a-days to grind up paints with? I believe that was the principal use made of Suffolk cheese outside the county; therein, as willers say, it served for pegs to fasten doors with—but that is libellous!

On comparing the two beasts, as a butcher would, we see at once that the shorthorn carries more flesh on the higher priced portions of his frame than the other: his "rounds of beef," and rumps are very superior indeed: while the red-poll is fuller in the brisket—observe, particularly, the *neck-vein*.—In the leg-of-mutton piece—excellent for stewing—the shorthorn is perfect, but this rival is, as is usually the case with all late-improved stock, very bad behind the shoulder. A glance at the head and eye of the Queen's ox shows that he is so calm and sober in disposition, that if he is properly treated he will give a good account of himself at the block. Both beasts are about the same age. The Queen seems to have been very successful this year, as indeed she ought to be, considering the most promising beasts are bought up for fattening at the Royal farms; but I would rather win, like Mr. Colman, with a beast I had bred as well as fed.

Hampshire-down lambs, at the Smithfield Club show, seem to have done their breeders credit; not one pen (3) out of the 14 shown weighed less than 560 lbs. = 184 lbs. each, and the heaviest went over 5 cwt. 2 qrs. 1 lb. = 209 lbs. a head. The Cotswold lambs are good, but the heaviest pen weighs 51 lbs. less than the Hampshire-down lambs. I have not yet received a full report of this important exhibition, so I must defer the rest of this résumé till later on.

Insecticides.—On the authority of Dr. Hoskins, I dare recommend the following insecticide to my readers: take out the head of a barrel of plaster and pour in, by degrees, a gallon of spirits of turpentine. When the plaster is thoroughly damped throughout, which it will be in a few days, sow it over the plants. If this answers, I think it would be preferable to the mixture of soap and petroleum, as being less likely to damage the young and tender leaves of the cucumber, squash, &c.; but I doubt very much if the *hallicia* (turnip fly) would care very much for turpentine.

The entomologist of the Ottawa experimental station, recommends the use of *pyrethrum* for the destruction of the caterpillar of the *ponua napi*, or cabbage butterfly; I have tried it, and without the slightest success; the green fly that infests the pelargonium seems rather to like it!

The "Strawsoniser," an engraving of which was given at page 75 of the last volume of the Journal, is becoming very popular in England, and if the great market-gardeners round Montreal are wise, they will order one as an experiment. Is it not rather curious that Montreal sends cabbages to Quebec and Three-Rivers, and receives swedes from those districts?

A new Chevalier.—The French government has conferred the decoration of a *Chevalier du Mérite Agricole* on MR. JAMES CHEESMAN, of Southboro, Mass., secretary of the New-England Dairymen's Association, for distinguished services

as member of the U. S. Agricultural Commission at the Paris exhibition.

Jerseys.—"When you buy a Jersey, be sure that her milk is rich in butter-fat. If it is, then you will have an excellent butter cow. If not, then you have a profitless animal;" so says Dr Hoskins in the *Vermont Watchman*, but I think we all knew it before.

Clover Sickness and Clover Failure.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—In your paper for 1887, page 208, may be found a most interesting article by Sir J. B. Lawes, giving an account of clover sickness as it occurs in England. In his letter Sir John refers to a paper by Mr. F. P. Root, and says it "establishes the fact that in the soils of the United States as well as in the soils of Europe clover sickness prevails wherever clover has been grown too long, or has been too frequently repeated."

I have read this paper of Mr. Root's (page 84, same volume), and find it treats of the failure of the wheat crop rather than of the clover, and although clover did not do well he does not describe symptoms resembling those of the European clover sickness.

Have we, or have we ever had, clover-sick soils such as occur in England? That clover sometime fails to grow we well know, but the causes of its failure were always apparent in the instances coming under my notice, such as poor land freezing in the spring, or drouths in the summer. In some sections of our country insect enemies are troublesome, but they are known and have been described and figured. But in England there is another and obscure cause of failure. There it seems that rich land suitable to clover that will grow large crops of grain, turnips and beans, refuses to grow clover, except at intervals of from four to twelve years, and that the addition of organic manure makes the matter worse. Is there a farm in the United States of which this can be said? I have never seen or heard of such land. More, this English disease is contagious, for Sir John tells of a case where it spread from an infested field a few feet over its borders into a healthy one.

That after growing clover every other year for 15 years, as Mr. Root tells us was once of the practice in Western New-York, the crop will diminish, is extremely probable, but this was never the custom in England. It came in rotation once in four years at the most, and always with manured crops between. Now, the rotation must be extended for a much longer time.

I hope your correspondents will tell us the results of their experience, but the first thing they should do is to read Sir John's paper. They will find plenty to think about, and will join me in thanking him for it. Among other things they will find that clover failing to grow and "clover sickness" may be two very different things.

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The writer of the above seems to think that the failure of red-clover in England is attributable to some specific disease; whereas, I believe it to be owing either to the mechanical state of the soil, or to the supply of food coveted by this very peculiar plant not being sufficiently abundant in a condition suited to its palate.

At the Salem meeting of farmers, the fact was brought out that "it is getting to be difficult to get a good catch of clover." I do not think Mr. Clendon realises the fact that