

made in one day, two pounds of food were used as food of support to produce it. As the two pounds of gain required but little over two pounds of excess food for each pound of gain, it will follow, when the figures are carried out, that the first pound used nearly three times as much food for a pound of growth as did the last.

The only defence that can be made of such a system is the one made, that in the first instance cheap food was eaten, namely, grass. But grass has a value for neat stock, and would appear to be attended with less waste in animal nutrition; but if the point is uncertain it would seem to be certain that if his pigship was put through in eight months by the addition of a little concentrated food, this prolonged use and waste of the food of support would be obviated. Of one fact I am entirely confident, unless scales are cheats and "mathematics a lie," that it takes much more food to make a pound of growth on pigs the second eight months than it does the first, which fact I am prepared to demonstrate. This fact being ad

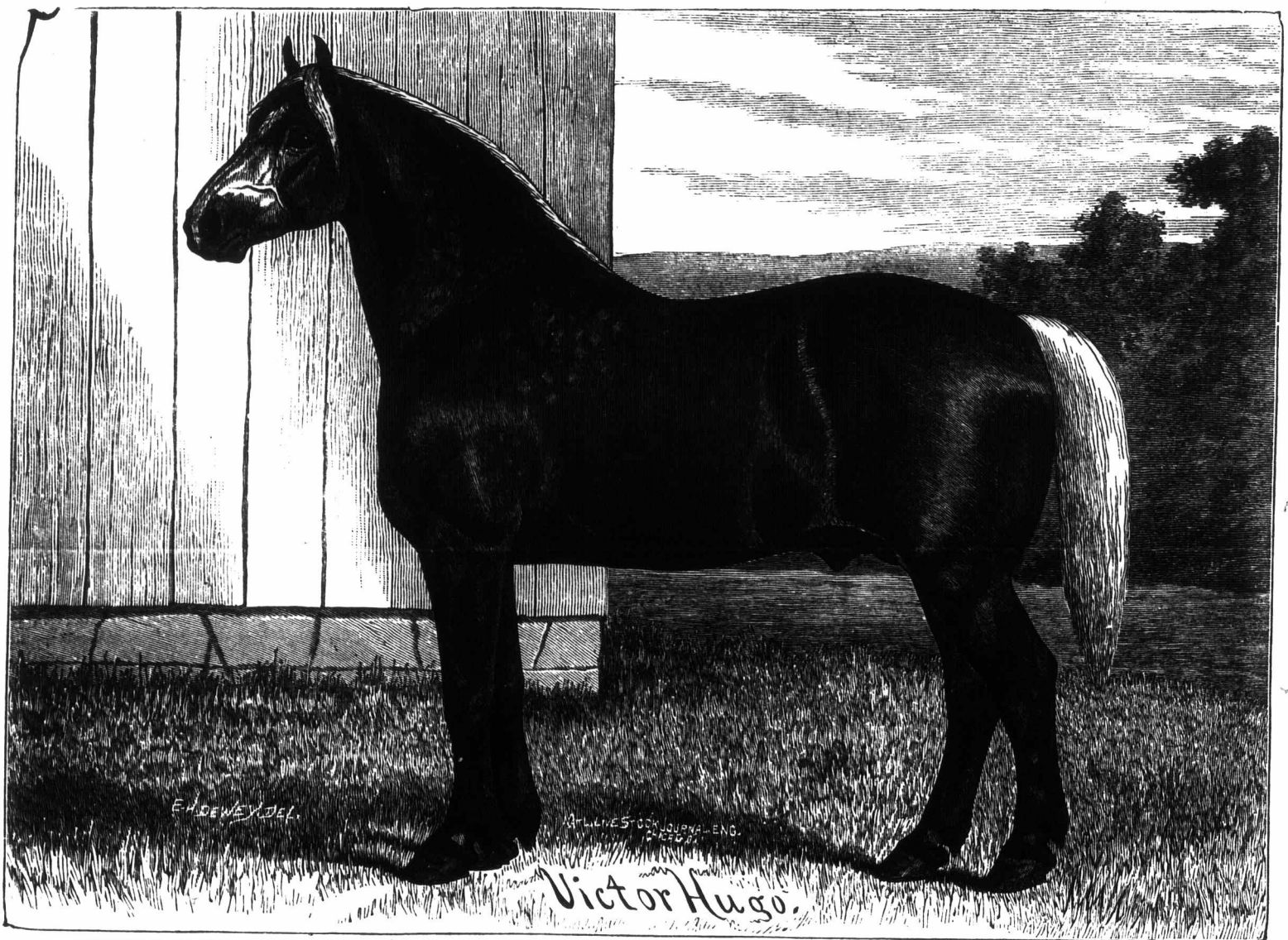
Norman Percheron Horse, Victor Hugo.

The accompanying engraving represents the Norman Percheron horse, Victor Hugo, imported and owned by Powell Bros., of Springboro, Crawford Co., Pa., U. S. A. This horse has been pronounced by good judges as one of the finest specimens of the breed that has ever been imported into America. Messrs. Powell Bros. write us that within the past few days they have had visitors from all parts of the continent to Shadeland, and that their sales have been most extensive. They have just added a magnificent importation of over fifty choice animals to their already large collection, in order that they may be at all times prepared to meet the demand for all kinds of stock.

When to Shear Sheep.

J. L. Thompson, in the *Indiana Farmer*, advises as follows:

"From last season's experience, I think we must shear earlier than we have been in the habit of doing, as there was a great deal of trouble on account of maggots, and a number of sheep lost which can be avoided by early shearing. And in order to do this we must discard the practice of washing the wool on the sheep's back, as this cannot be safely done in this latitude much before the 1st of June, and by the time the sheep are dry and the oil has sufficiently raised, it will be the middle of June before shearing can be safely done. I would therefore recommend shearing without washing, and as early as the season will admit of with safety to the sheep, say from the 1st to the 25th of May for the general farmer. And breeders that make a specialty of sheep and have stable or sheds for them, will find it to their advantage to shear still earlier. Especially ewes that are suck-



NORMAN PERCHERON HORSE, VICTOR HUGO, IMPORTED AND OWNED BY POWELL BROS., OF SPRINGBORO, CRAWFORD CO., PA., U. S. A.

mitted, the policy of pork producers is clear, that is, to have the pigs dropped early in the spring and fed in sufficiency to attain within eight months a growth of 250 pounds, when they should be ready for the market.

Dr. Sturtevant's experiments in feeding cows at the New York State farm in Geneva give extraordinary results. Richer milk was produced from shorts or gluten meal than from corn meal. It is probable that the corn makes the globules of cream larger and more readily separable from the milk than when wheat, bran or shorts are fed.

Any cause that interferes with the condition of the cow after calving may produce milk fever. Exposure, too much exercise or nervous excitement are sufficient to bring on an attack, and a recovery is rare. It is the "ounce of prevention" in this case, as in so many others, that is worth the pound of cure. Keep the animal quiet for a week before and after calving, and nurse her well.

TO SOFTEN THE HOOFS.—The New York Times says horses' hoofs become brittle because they are too dry,—possibly from a diseased condition of the feet, or from the use of grease or oil or tar, which removes the water for them. Horn should contain about 30 per cent. of water when in a healthful state. It is then elastic and will not break. Cold water will generally restore the hoofs when they become too dry. It may be applied by means of wet bandages in the day-time, and in the stable by providing a puddle of clay or wet muck for the horse to stand in. All other remedies are injurious.

The first two or three days after putting horses to farm work in the spring, the team should be rested frequently, and the collars eased from the shoulders to admit air. A little care at the beginning in preventing galled shoulders will save valuable days' work during the season.

ling lambs, as the lambs do much better after the ewes are shorn, as they give much more milk after being shorn, on account of the extra heat tending to dry up the flow of milk. And ewes that have lambs lose considerable of their wool if not shorn till the 1st of June. Shearing earlier we get a greater growth of wool, as April, May and June are the best growing months for the fleece. This gives the sheep a good protection for the hot weather of July and August, which is of more importance than we are apt to consider.

"Of course we must avoid extremes in this matter. If we shear early, we must house our sheep of cold nights and out of cold wind and rain storms; humanity demands this. And, in fact, early shorn sheep can stand the same degree of cold better than later shorn ones. As Randall very truly says: 'The change to them is not so great or sudden as when cold storms follow shearing after they have been sweltering in their fleeces in hot weather.'"