

always before rain, because if the weather proves dry the volatile parts are dispelled and destroyed, and the crop not benefitted by it. Care should be taken to sow it regularly, and not too thick, because it has been known to destroy plants entirely, when overdone.

ALFRED SAUNDERS, Seedsman,  
168 Argyle Street.

#### A PLEA FOR DEVONS.

Granville, Feb 5, 1868.

DEAR SIR,—If it is not too late, I would suggest an addition to the list of premiums of the Provincial Exhibition. Devon cattle are, I think, not sufficiently represented. No breed, in my opinion, is so well suited to the Western part of the Province as Devons; no doubt the Short Horns are altogether unsuited, they have been faithfully tried by many, but our pastures are so short and our marsh hay of so poor a quality, that the breed 'Durhams' have no chance to develop their good qualities, and have been abandoned by our farmers.

Ayrshires are well liked, but the Devons will, I am sure, answer better. We now have two pure bred Devon bulls in the County, but their stock is yet young.

Bees wax is also, I see, omitted.

As I see I am an *ex officio* committee man, pray excuse the liberty I am taking in thus troubling you, and believe me,

Yours sincerely,

GEO. T. BINGAY.

I have some fine specimens of fossils from the Devonian and Silurian formations; would you like some for your museum?

G. T. B.

[Yes, if you please. They will be very acceptable.—ED.]

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

#### "CAPONS."

SIR,—The absence of "capons" from the markets of Nova Scotia has, with me, been a matter of surprise; and as the art of "caponing" fowls forms part of rural economy, and from many conversations I have had with farmers and the vendors of poultry in the different markets, many of whom were entirely ignorant of its practice, the following mode of making "capons," as practised in many of the large poultry yards both in England and France, may be useful to some of your readers:—

Hold the wings of the fowl back until they meet, the left foot of the operator is placed on them, the fowl lying on its left side, the great toe of the right foot is placed on its legs, the feathers are then plucked off the side. An incision about an inch in length, commencing an inch

from the back bone and extending obliquely downwards and forwards, is made with a levelled pointed knife; this is carefully carried through the skin and muscles till the intestines are laid bare, the incision is kept open with a bit of cane or whalebone in the form of a bow; the intestines are pushed on one side with a pair of forceps, the spermatic cord is then sawn asunder with a horse hair drawn through a hollow tube, the testicle is then removed, the other testicle is then laid hold of and removed in like manner; no blood issues from the cords nor does the bird seem to feel any pain. The wound is now closed (pressed together), feathers which were plucked off are stuck upon the wound with the blood, and the wing being put down our castrated rooster struts off as if nothing had happened. When fully fed they often exceed nine pounds in weight. They are usually fed on refuse, potatoes boiled, coarse meal, the skimmings of the pot, (something greasy), with a little carrion occasionally for dessert. I would call the attention of the members of the Poultry Club to the above; and a prize offered at their next exhibition for well fed "capons" would, no doubt, help to remove those half-starved unsightly mites of fowls often exposed for sale in our markets.

A LOVER OF GOOD POULTRY.

#### ON THE BREEDING OF CATTLE AND HORSES.

Being a Lecture delivered before the Bridgetown Agricultural Society,

BY DR. GEORGE T. BINGAY.

In my intercourse with our farmers I have found many of them so unacquainted with the laws which govern the generation of animals, and of some of the fundamental rules that must be carefully observed by one who wishes to be a successful stock breeder, that I have been induced to pen these few remarks, in the hope that they may supply the necessary information, and enable you to pursue one of the most lucrative branches of rural economy in a way that will prove pleasant to yourselves and be not injurious to your pockets.

Firstly, I will explain what is meant by the term 'blood,' as applied to stock. I know the greatest misapprehension exists as to its meaning, even amongst men of good general information. Many seem to think that if they can get a little 'blood' infused into their stock that they should at once see some astonishing improvement,—that a few drops from a Berkshire boar should enable a pig to live on nothing and fatten on a little more of the same,—that an English cow should give any amount of milk as rich as cream, not presuming to go dry more than half a day per year,—that her calves should

weigh at least thirty pounds per quarter, —the heifers coming in when a year old, and the steers, be full grown and fat at three years, in a pasture where spruce bushes offer an agreeable change of diet when the appetite craves something more than thistles and bull-rushes. But extravagant as is the herdsman, he is far surpassed by the horseman. His blooded animal must be big, with straight shoulders and strong fetlocks, to bring a good fat price as a dray horse, and yet he is expected to be an easy saddle beast,—he must out-trot anything on the road, and yet outrun all competitors,—he must have high life and a fine carriage, and yet a quart of oats a day is too much for a colt, it might founder him,—he must be without speck or blemish, even if at two years old he was broken by means of a heavy sled and a deep snow bank,—and if he is not "the toughest bit of horse flesh ever wrapped in hide," that is, if he cannot be driven at the rate of two-forty, fifteen miles, and then gather strength for the return journey by rubbing his nose for five hours on a fence post, why blood is a humbug, and we had much better keep to our tough and patient ponies; and, perhaps, with such ideas this conclusion is a perfectly just and safe one.

Blood only means that certain qualities, bad as well as good, have become inherent in a race of animals; and as applied to a horse it generally means that he has descended from some branch of the far-famed Arabian family.

You all know that in man the peculiarities of the parent are transmitted to the child. So strong is this tendency that accidental deformities are sometimes thus handed down, as six fingers on a hand, or superfluous toes, a cross eye, hare lip, and many others; and were it not that the law of the land, and a natural repugnance prevents the marriage of near relations, these family peculiarities would be of much more frequent occurrence. This fact, that the offspring will possess, to a greater or less degree, the particular qualities, physical and mental, of the parent, is one of the fundamental rules I spoke of; it is in truth the most important of them all, it governs not only the animal but the vegetable world, and if it were suspended there soon would be no such thing as successful husbandry,—no one could be sure that the seed he planted would reproduce its kind, and the world would soon be overrun by a race of monsters.

From the earliest historical times we find man domesticating certain of the animal tribes, and taxing them to contribute to his support. Thus the horse, horned cattle, sheep and goats accompanied him in all his wanderings, and became, as they still are in Eastern countries, almost members of his family. In a state of nature, that is, the wild state, animals of