

the buildings. He said the cost was very trifling. Stone lime should be slacked in an iron vessel, covered over at the top; this makes the wash much whiter than when air is allowed to have access to the lime. When slacking a piece of tallow is put into the lime, and salt is also added; he did not remember the exact quantities. He says the buildings will last longer if thus treated, and will look so much better that if the plan is once tried the farmers would not abandon it. It would give the country a different and more pleasing appearance. We agree with our American friend, and hope some of our readers will try the plan. The Americans do not neglect the inside of their stables, granaries and outbuildings. They get a thorough cleaning out and a good coat of white-wash; this destroys the vermin and purifies the buildings. Our companion expressed his surprise that stock could remain healthy confined in buildings so oppressively filled with ammonia as some that were entered. The day was a damp, murky one, and the ventilation had not been quite as well attended to as we thought it might have been. We spoke about this, but were informed that heat was requisite for cattle; they would not thrive without it, and it is seldom animals are found too warm in a shiftless farmer's buildings in winter.

At Mr. Dryden's farm we found a fine herd of Shorthorns, Cotswold sheep and Clyde horses. Mr. D. is one of our M. P. P.'s, and as he was attending to his duties in Toronto, we did not see him. He has a very fine farm and excellent buildings. A remarkable feature about this farm is the old herdsman; he has been in Mr. Dryden's employ for 20 years, being steady and most trustworthy. He fairly exists in seeing the stock thrive. He has made money; he was a poor man, but now has a good annual income from his savings and could buy a good farm at any time. A few years ago he took a trip to the States to see if he could suit himself by purchasing some land there, but after due consideration he concluded he would rather attend to Mr. Dryden's farm and stock on a salary and let his money alone. This man appeared ten times more happy and contented than the majority of farm owners. How much better off is he than hundreds we have seen who have left good situations.

We next visited Mr. W. Smith's residence, and here found two fine sets of farm buildings, one on each side of the road. These buildings are painted, contrasting greatly with all others, giving the place a very neat and attractive appearance. In the buildings and yards we find another very fine lot of Shorthorns, Cotswold sheep and Clyde horses; here are many of the animals that carried off the prizes—a Clydesdale for which \$450 was refused, a perfect beauty; a fine imported Clyde mare, with the rough hair on its buttocks touching the ground. "The more hair on the legs the better," is the cry among the farmers in this locality. They are the class that the Americans now want; they bring better prices than clean-legged horses at the present time. To show you how stock are kept by good herdsmen, we observed that the sheep allowed the sheep-dog to go in amongst them, and took no more notice of it than they would of a lamb; they had no fear, one of the rams coming up to play with us. The stockmen had been on the farm for 25 years, and were happy, contented and comfortable.

We next called at Mr. J. Howden's farm. He has erected a substantial stone house, the joints of the stones representing the letter H; it is neatly done. Mr. H. has Shorthorns, Cotswolds and Clydesdale horses. He fattens a good many cattle every year and has a fine lot now fattening for the English market. We must stop or we shall weary you on this subject.

January 21.—We inspected Mr. Hodgson's celebrated Cotswold sheep, which brought the highest honors to Canada from the great World's Exhibition as well as from many of the Western States. He considers that he has been unjustly treated by the Provincial Fair Association, and thinks he will never exhibit there again. The numerous complaints from such men are ominous—Deadman on fruit, Russell on stock, &c., &c.

We next called at Mr. Menderson's residence, in Reach Tp., who has long been noted for his care in wheat culture. He is a good, clean farmer, and tries all new varieties that he can hear of. His name stands higher in honors for prizes gained for really meritorious exhibits than any other person we know of. He showed us different varieties of grain, and says that he considers the Odessa is superior to any other spring wheat. It has far out-yielded the other varieties. He has a very fine sample of it, but has none to spare, all being promised except his own seed. A few miles from his farm there is a small lake, and about half an acre of the land on the brink of the lake took a slide into the lake. On this land-slide tall pine trees were growing, and now their tops are to be seen a few feet below the surface of the water, standing in an upright position. The water is clear as crystal to a great depth. We are informed that the depth of the water is unknown, and that thousands of visitors have gone to see this freak of nature; it is a favorite resort for summer pic-nics.

We drove next to Port Perry; then to Scugog Island. This island is connected with the main land by a floating bridge about a quarter of a mile long. It contains about 12,000 acres of land. Numerous muskrat houses are to be seen on the lake. Wild rice grows along the margin of the lake, and large numbers of ducks frequent it during the duck season. Mr. Graham is the most extensive farmer on the island. He has 800 acres here, having purchased it four years ago. The land has been covered with pine and hemlock, and is excellent wheat land. Mr. Graham has a large herd of Shorthorns. His large barnyard is enclosed by the most remarkable fence we have seen. It was erected many years ago, and consists of solid pine or hemlock logs, 36 feet long, from 20 inches to over two feet in diameter, and four logs high, built in this style:—

The water conveniences are remarkable. Continuously flowing water fills the tanks for cattle, and flows into the house in any desired quantity. This is supplied from one of the purest crystal-looking lakes imaginable. The lake is supplied by a spring, and the water conducted in pipes to where it is wanted.

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#### Talks with Farmers.

Mr. W. Green, of Westminster, brought a load of barley to the market; the barley was good but was discolored, and he was only offered 50 cts. per bushel for it. He also brought 20 lbs. of butter, for which he received \$5. He took the barley home again, and says he will double the price of the barley by feeding it to his cows.

Mr. W. R. Pincombe, of Komoka, says he fattens 12 head of cattle each winter, his father 15, and his brother from 30 to 50. He says the family have fattened more animals than most farmers; they have followed it for many years, and never had a year of loss from following this plan: They feed straw first and a bushel of turnips daily, with a little meal; then hay and a pint of ground barley daily. They have succeeded in adding farm to farm, and consider it the safest and most profitable mode of farming.

#### The Farmer's Paper—Its Independent Course.

We are happy to say that our independence of party and party politics has been appreciated by the farmers of the Dominion. There are, however, a few exceptions—very few. There are a few narrow-minded individuals that would have every one see through their spectacles. We give extracts from two letters received from subscribers, both ceasing to be subscribers, and for reasons diametrically opposite to each other. A subscriber from Woodville says:—"Though pleased with the ADVOCATE as a farmer's paper, I cannot continue taking it. Though compelled by your convictions to criticize the N. P., the tax on corn, &c., yet you do it by gentle hints, as if afraid of giving offence." A subscriber from Kincardine says:—"You will oblige me by not sending the ADVOCATE this year. I think it was not to my interest that you applied to Sir L. Tilley to take the duty off corn." Let them go. Though unwilling to part with old subscribers, we are glad to say we have the confidence and hearty support of thousands of independent farmers throughout the Dominion; and we write not "by gentle hints, as if afraid to offend," but boldly and fearlessly we oppose what we know to be opposed to the interests of farmers, and advocate what is for their interest. And we are willing at any time to insert communications from subscribers, even though their opinions are opposed to ours. Even at the risk of offending a few narrow-minded partisans, our paper shall be an independent, outspoken journal.

We profess to endeavor to advocate the farmer's interest in the manner we deem best. Our pages have always been open for correction and furnishing the best information to farmers. Neither party or sect has been favored with our intent, but we have aimed to do the greatest good to the largest number. An angel could not satisfy all. There will always be some that cannot see matters in that light. We have only to regret that any feel aggrieved, and trust that it will be only a matter of time when they will acknowledge that these remarks are correct.

#### Advance in the Price of Wool.

The United States Economist gives fifteen reasons why wool should advance. Three of them are: "No wool in the West; stock of fleeces lighter in the market than usual; the demand for woollen goods exceeds the supply." The supply of wool has been for some years decreasing in the United States, notwithstanding the vast tracts of virgin soil every year enclosed and farmed. In New England especially the decrease in sheep husbandry is rapid and continuous. In a report quoted by the New England Farmer it is stated that in a single town in New Hampshire the number of sheep had decreased over 5,600 in a few years. In 1860 Massachusetts had 114,000 sheep; in 1878 the number was reduced to 55,000. The unremitting depletion of our flocks in Canada by shipments to England and the States must have a perceptible effect on the number of our sheep. Very little if any effort is made to add to our flocks. Too many of our very best lambs are sold off the farm. The great demand for wool and mutton proves that sheep husbandry, when carried on judiciously, is a very profitable branch of business. It is a sure means of enriching the farm and of keeping down weeds. And there is a fair prospect of the demand for Canadian Eutton increasing. There is an increasing demand for good mutton in the States—such as Canadian soil and climate can produce. The number of milk cows that a farm can feed profitably will not be lessened by adding to them a small flock of sheep. Of this there is ample proof from the experience of many stock-feeders.