

The Farmer's Journal.

MONTREAL. JULY 1858.

In-and-in Breeding.

There is no subject that demands greater knowledge or more skill on the part of the husbandman, than stock breeding and feeding. Notwithstanding much has been done in the way of improving the various kinds of domestic animals, much still remains to be done before perfectly satisfactory results shall be attained. Size, form, hardiness, quick maturity, tendency to fatten quickly, quality of flesh, hide, milking qualities, aptitude to labor, disposition,—the best breed or blood, as the breeder would say. These are topics relating to points of essential importance to every breeder, grazier and dairyman.

The farmer who breeds cattle for the shambles, desires that kind that will make the greatest amount, and the best quality of beef in the shortest time, from the feed consumed; if for the dairy, the kind that will produce the greatest quantity of milk, if to be sold by measure; the greatest amount of cream, if butter be the object, and of caseine, if cheese be wanted. Reference is also had by others to the capacity to work in the yoke. The kind of cattle best for the farmer to select, will depend upon what he wants to do with them. For, so to speak, they are machines kept by farmers to change vegetables of various kinds into beef, milk, butter, cheese, &c., and the breed that will produce the greatest amount of the best beef, from a given amount of feed and in the shortest time, will be deemed the best ma-

chine for changing grass into beef and fertilizers; the latter being an important item in good farming.

Successful efforts have been made within one hundred and fifty years, in improving cattle not less than other domestic animals. Much attention is now directed to the further improvements of the various breeds of live stock. The mode of carrying these to their highest degree of perfection, necessarily involves the much and oft-mooted question of "in-and-in breeding." It is proposed to furnish further testimony on this subject from the best and most reliable sources—testimony furnished by breeders of stock, derived from both experience and observation.

George Culley, in his "Observations on Live Stock," says that—

"The great obstacle to the *improvement* of domestic animals seems to have arisen from a common and prevalling idea among breeders, that no bull should be used in the same stock more than three years, and no tup more than two; because, (say they,) if used longer, the breed will be *too near akin*, and the produce will be *tender, diminutive*, and liable to *disorders*; some have imbibed the prejudice so far as to think it *irreligious*; and if by chance they were in possession of the best breed in the Island, would by no means put a male and female together that had the same sire, or were out of the same dam.

But fortunately for the public, there have been men in different lines of breeding, whose enlarged minds were not to be bound by vulgar prejudice or long established modes, and who have proved by many years experience, that such notions are without any foundation. Mr. Bakewell has not had a cross for upwards of twenty years. His best stock has been bred by the nearest affinities; yet they have not