

# Gallop Farmet.

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## Editorial.

### Keep the Cellars Clean.

In every well regulated City or Town, the authorities require that all the premises, including cellars, should be subject to inspection, in order that neither dirt nor decaying vegetable matter should be permitted to remain. The effect of this wise provision is, to prevent diseases not only from spreading, but also to remove every cause for their being generated. In the rural districts no such regulations exist, or, if they do, they are a dead letter. In respect to these things, farmers do what they think to be right in their own eyes, without considering, or perhaps it is better to say, without knowing, what may possibly be the result.

Nearly all the cellars under farm houses are the receptacles of every variety of vegetables, particularly during winter. There are always more or less of these that are far from sound when stored away, and many are put away in an unripe condition. Decay goes on from day to day in both cases, and as the season advances towards spring, there is a good deal of putrid matter of one sort or another produced by fermentation. From this stuff there is constantly thrown off poisonous gases, which find their way into all parts of the house, itself, and render it a very unwholesome place to live in. Frequently the tenants are not aware of this, from their almost constantly inhaling the vitiated air, and for another reason, that it is made its entrance so imperceptibly and unobserved, that even when a stranger entering the dwelling is at once cognizant of it, the people of the house may not even surmise that anything is wrong.

There is nothing more likely to superinduce fevers of various kinds than impure cellars, and many instances might be adduced to show that such is the case. It must be remembered that a small cellar, if not properly ventilated, is enough to introduce sickness into any house. A half barrel or less of rotten potatoes, turnips, onions, or other like vegetables, will do more mischief than many persons are ready to admit. All such impurities should be removed as soon as detected. As early as possible in the spring let some of the windows be opened for ventilation. All is a good practice, of fine days in winter, to have a little fresh air admitted. To provide for this, one or two windows with double sashes might be introduced into the wall, which could be opened and shut at pleasure.

When spring is fairly upon us, empty the cellar of every thing that can be taken out, then sweep thoroughly the walls and floor, and leave it exposed to air and all the winds that blow, for eight or ten days. In the meantime scrub and clean every article that has been removed and must go back. Overhaul and sort out the vegetables, including even those that show the least signs of rot or decay, and feed them to the stock. Before returning anything to the cellar, go at it with a good mixture of whitewash, which is applied to ceiling and walls. Let the whitewash be of the consistency of cream, as it will then have a body which a thin mixture will not. It is presumed, of course, that after everything, vegetables and all, are removed, that the floors, bins, shelves, &c., have had a thorough taking, scraping, and cleaning; this is indispensable.

One of the most effective ways of ventilating a cellar, is by way of a flue in the chimney. This cannot always be provided in an old house, but whenever a farmhouse is built, this can be provided for at little or no extra expense.

Circular No. 35 of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the State of Georgia has been received. It is the result of the Soil Tests of Marietta, conducted under the direction of the Commissioner, during 1876. The following is the manner in which the tests were made:—

The Commissioner of Agriculture required 500 lbs. of each kind of fertilizer sold in Georgia, to be subjected to a thorough soil test. The persons designated to make this test were selected from among the most intelligent and careful farmers in the State. As far as possible, each sample of 500 lbs. was divided into three equal portions, and one portion sent to each section of the State—Northern, Middle, and Southern Georgia. And as far as possible, an ammoniated and a non-ammoniated fertilizer was sent to each experimenter.

Put a teaspoonful of ammonia in a quart of warm soap-suds, dip a cloth in it and go over your soil and plant and see how rapidly the dirt will disappear; no scrubbing will be necessary. It will cleanse and brighten wonderfully.

## Correspondence.

### RURAL TOPICS.

#### HOW TO MAKE A HOTBED.

A good hot-bed may be made upon the surface of the ground, piling up the manure from two feet six inches to three feet high, and at least six inches wider all around than the frame. This extra width tends to preserve the heat within the frame; and if it be a foot wider than the frame it would be better than six inches. The situation should be where the soil is dry; and the bed should front to the south, or as nearly south as the location will permit. The sun should either be procured before the bed is made, or their exact size should be known when the frame is made; and the frame may be made to hook closely together, so as to be removed, and easily stored away when not in use. Fresh horse dung is the best manure to produce heat. It should be thrown into a heap and wet slightly about a week before it is placed on the bed, and turned over once or twice before using it to increase the heat. When put on the bed, tread it down firmly, and cover it about six inches deep with light, rich soil, and ascertain the degree of heat when you desire to sow your seeds, by plunging a thermometer into the soil; and if too warm, wait a day or two for the bed to cool. Seeds will stand a heat of 90 degrees very well. Sometimes seeds are grown in pots and pans, which are plunged into the manure without any covering of soil; but in such a case, it should be covered three or four inches deep with sand or ashes to retain the heat. Wooden boxes six inches deep, made of very thin boards, about two feet long, and one foot wide, would be better than pans and pots for some kinds of plants. The bottoms might be of zinc, or galvanized sheet iron, perforated with small holes to allow water to pass through them, if the watering should be too copious. Such boxes could be packed in without any waste of room; and they could be easily removed to fork up the bed when you wish to increase the heat, or a new bed to be made, when the heat of the old one is too much exhausted.

#### PRUNE YOUR GRAPE VINES.

The proper time to prune grape vines is in the fall; but many persons neglect to prune at that season, and in cases where the vines are not pruned, they should be attended to at the best pleasant day; and not wait till the sap begins to flow, as then they will be "bleed," and be badly injured. In pruning grape vines, you are merely to put the vines in good shape, being careful to save the most of the best canes of last year's growth, which may be known from their reddish color. The ends of the canes should be cut off at the joint your trellis space; and the side spurs cut back to one bud, or as many as you please, according to the length of the spurs. A spur four feet long, with eight to ten buds, I should cut back to two or three buds, and the cut is to be made several inches from the nearest bud. As you approach the end of the cane where the spurs are shorter, one or two buds only should be left. The vines are laid down, and protected for the winter, of course, no pruning can be done till taken up; but I presume no one who is worthy of owning a grape vine, has laid down his vines unpruned.

#### WHAT GRAPES ARE BEST.

There is considerable interest felt in the new varieties of grapes; and every person who desires to plant a few vines next spring is interested in ascertaining what varieties he had better buy. They who have not got the Concord should obtain it as the most reliable grape in all soils and climates that exist in this country; and for the first time reports come from Ohio that this popular variety begins to fail in that State, where for 25 years it has been grown in perfection. But you want, perhaps, several varieties; but among all that exists, no man can say that any of the scores of varieties, except the Concord, that have been in the market a longer or a shorter time, are sure to be a success in any locality, except where they have been fully tested. In consequence of this fact, those who are desirous of obtaining new varieties, which have not been tested several years in their vicinities, must run the risk of the result. No particular credence should be given to what is said in grape circulars, about the adaptation of vines to all localities; nor to the testimonials in regard to the qualities of different varieties are offered for sale, because testimonials as to quality are often given by men who are not good judges of grapes. The best I can do for those who are seeking for good varieties is to say: The Delaware, Iona, Agawam (Rogers,

Hybrid, No. 15) and Concord, are the four best old colored varieties, which may be risked in any part of the country where the Concord ripens. There are several new varieties which have lately come into market, as the Brighton, Champion, Worden's Seedling, and Lady, the last named being a white grape. All of these are said to be good, but as to quality they may be good, and they may not. Then they are said to be early, the Champion being claimed to be ten days earlier than the Hartford Prolifer; but when we consider that about three-quarters of the grape vines sold during the last 30 years have been humbugs, if not frauds, as to quality and earliness claimed for them, we cannot expect that any very great reformation has taken place in the morals of grape vine-vendors. Buy sparingly and with the expectation of being cheated in some degree, and then all will be right. As an instance of misrepresentation, some years ago the Walter grape was extensively advertised as ripening in New York State in August, and as being "the only raisin grape in the United States." It turns out with me to ripen with the Concord, and to be no raisin grape at all, and not worth cultivating at this late day, when there are so many better varieties.

#### ROTATION OF CROPS.

A judicious rotation of crops will keep a farm in a good state of fertility without any manure, except what is made on the farm. In the first place, turn over a field in soil for corn, first spreading upon the field what manure you can spare, and turning under as fast as spread, or the same day at least. Deep plowing is not necessary in plowing sward land for corn; but it should be turned over flat and evenly, and after harrowing the land the corn should be planted immediately, so as to get a good start, ahead of the grass. The next year this land may bear a crop of oats barley or spring wheat. Seeding it down to clover or to any other grass with it, the clover being necessary to fertilize the land the third year, by turning under a second growth (the first being cut for hay) early in September, and sowing the land to wheat or rye, and seeding it down to grass again, on the second year, clover seed in this case till the following March when it may be sown even if the ground should be covered with snow; and as soon as the snow is gone and the land is dry roll it and the clover seed will catch well. There is no kind of grass so good as a green fertilizer as clover, as its roots penetrate the soil quite deep; and with the green clover turned under it is equal in fertilizing land to a moderate spread of stable manure. We are now on the fourth year with wheat or rye and the land properly seeded. The fifth year may be a crop of hay, and the sixth year or pasture, to be followed when desirable with another rotation of crops, but it is not essential that the above system be strictly followed, but it is necessary that the clover be grown to be turned under at the proper time, if the land is to be kept in a good state of fertility without manuring.

#### TOP DRESSING ORCHARDS.

A writer on this subject says: "The most perfect treatment for an orchard to give vigor of growth, is to cultivate the surface in connection with a yearly moderate application of manure. Heavy top-dressing without cultivation will produce decided results. We visited an orchard which had for years received an abundant top-dressing. All the manure that could be spared went to the orchard. The most low surface could be kicked up with the boot among the grass. The trees bore heavy and excellent crops. The London Garden mentions a similar instance. An orchard stood in grass, which was mowed each year and the grass carried off. It thus grew poorer and poorer, and the trees were stunted and covered with moss. Then a new testimony was begun. All sorts of refuse matter were wheeled or carted on, such as sifted coal-ashes, old tan, scrapings of roads, fragmentary manure &c., until a considerable thickness had finally accumulated. A free growth commenced, and improved crops of apples were the result."

#### PAINT AND REPAIR YOUR IMPLEMENTS.

No farmer should fail to put his farm implements in good order before work commences in the spring. Some of them, undoubtedly, need painting; and others, perhaps, are not in good repair, a brace being broken, or a bolt, or a nut missing. While you are at the blacksmith's, it would be well to get a few extra nuts made for such implements as are liable to have them lost when in use. You should also have duplicates of such parts of your mowing machine as are most liable to be broken. These can be obtained of the maker; and if you never need them, you may con-

sider yourself fortunate. Now is the time to attend to these matters. In regard to hoes, shovels, spades, &c., it is best to have a surplus, to be used in case you want to employ extra help at any time. It is unpleasant for a neighbor to be called on to lend a hoe, shovel, or other farm implement, when they can be bought for but the best \$1.50. Remember, too, that the best tools are the cheapest in the end.

## Miscellaneous.

### Country Life in the Winter.

It doesn't speak very well for the inventive power of our rural population, nor for their social instincts, that they have allowed the old-time merry-making to die out without providing anything to take their place. Were such rural enjoyments as apple-bee, corn-baking, spelling-matches and singing-schools, in which the young united, quills and house-warming, to characteristic of pioneer life or new state of society, that the old settlement cannot keep them up? If so the descendants of the sturdy and rather old-fashioned folk—who, notwithstanding their grave demeanor and serious views of life, loved innocent hilarity and jovial gatherings nearly as well as they did their psalms and long sermons—ought to invent something more acceptable to modern tastes.

Instead of doing this, however, the great majority of rural communities content themselves with a humdrum sort of life. Perhaps it comes from the fact that the young of the country, now, that such a practical and happy frolic as an apple-bee is no longer in vogue. We can imagine that a young lady might not wish to leave her *Atlantic Monthly*, or her *Tuesday's Literature*, with Joseph Cook's last lecture on Immortality or Transcendentalism, to join a "paring" party. But think of the old time picture: In the ample kitchen, with its great fire-place piled high with wood, that sends the flames crackling and roaring up the chimney, the boys and girls of the country neighborhood are gathered. Some have paring machines, and are making the jackets fly from leaped-up piles of Greenings and Spitzenbergs. Others with knives "quarter and core," and others with needle and thread string the pieces for drying. It is a busy scene, and so not so busy as to prevent the jokes, the song, the story, and the happy dance, to the inspiring notes of a vigorous fiddler. It is no languid "walk around," made for posing and showing off good clothes, but genuine, joyous, innocent dance. Homely and rustic?—Yes, but natural, free, mirthful, and promotive of a happy social life.

But this belongs to the olden time. Now-a-days, when Biddy reigns in the kitchen, the song, the story, and the happy dance, to the inspiring notes of a vigorous fiddler. It is no languid "walk around," made for posing and showing off good clothes, but genuine, joyous, innocent dance. Homely and rustic?—Yes, but natural, free, mirthful, and promotive of a happy social life.

The potato rot owes its existence to a plant of fungoid growth, belonging to the same family as mould. Its spores are present in most atmospheric conditions, ready to seize upon any favorable soil for their development. This soil must be some other plant, and that in a sickly condition. It could find no foothold upon a potato plant in a strong and healthy condition. If, therefore, the potato be planted on low, moist lands, or on clayey soil, or if it be strongly manured with animal fertilizers, we put it

in the way of a sickly growth, which may result in making it a fit subject for this parasite. Climate conditions also have much to do with it, and may weaken plants which have some of the foregoing conditions that they become subject to the pest. The long prevalence of dry winds may do this, it is better to prevent the difficulty than to try to cure it after it has gained a foothold. Keep watch of the vines for a few days after a cold night, or after a heavy rain, and if the leaves curl, or if at any time they show signs of drooping and withering, it is best to apply the preventive. This is plaster, sprinkled on and about the plant. It should be well pulverized and applied when the air is still, a hand or two in each hill. The application may need to be repeated more than once, but it is believed that if continued it will prevent the plague; and there are seasons when it should be done at all hazards. If this would similar green crop. If careful experiments in this line should be faithfully pursued, we might yet find out that barn-yard manure and the cattle to make it are not the indispensable or economical things that we have been so long taught to consider them.

#### What is Pure Blood.

The following remarks were made by President Welch, of the Iowa Agricultural College, at the recent short-horn breeders' convention:—While coming here to-day, I was thinking of the important subject, how long shall a thoroughbred animal be bred by crossing with a scrub, before becoming pure blood? The English rule is, to cross four times with the female, and four times with the male. We take a half-blood and cross with a pure-blood, and we have a quarter-blood, and the fifth cross we will have an animal that has thirty-one parts pure blood to one part scrub—that is, if we compute the crosses arithmetically—but when we take into consideration the fact that the pure-blooded animal is prepotent over the scrub, then the animal has but a minute portion of scrub blood. When a pure-blooded short-horn bull is crossed with a scrub cow, the result cannot be computed arithmetically, for the prepotence of the thoroughbred animal over the scrub, controls to a greater or less degree the value of the progeny. The future beef and butter of this country depends on the value of crossing. I crossed a common cow, a poor milkster, with an Ayrshire bull, and the result was an Ayrshire calf resembling his parent, and with not one perceptible point in favor of its mother; thus the scrub was almost entirely lost. It is impossible to say that a certain number of crosses will produce the pure-blood of the scrub you would have an animal as near perfection as it is possible to get. What are the excellences of the short-horn but his merit, and power to transmit that merit, or by emanation. No other form of action is conceivable. Now, as the brightest light of a full moon is never equal in intensity or quantity to that which is reflected toward us by a white cloud on a summer day, it can scarcely be pretended that weather is affected by such a cause. That the moon does exert attraction on us is manifest—we see its working in the tides; but, though it can move water, it is most unlikely that it can do the same to air, for the specific gravity of the atmosphere is so small that there is nothing to be attracted. Laplace, calculated, indeed, that the joint attraction of the sun and moon could not stir the atmosphere at a quicker rate than five miles a day. As for lunar emanations, not a sign of them has ever been discovered. The idea of an influence produced by the phases of the moon is therefore based on no recognizable cause whatever. Furthermore, it is now distinctly shown that no variations at all really occur in weather at the moment of the changes of quarter, any more than at other ordinary times. Since the establishment of meteorological stations all over the earth, it has been proved by millions of observations that there is no simultaneousness whatever between the supposed cause and the supposed effect. The whole story is a fancy and a superstition, which has been handed down to us uncontrolled, and which we have accepted as it came from our forefathers without questioning for a reason.—*Ex.*

#### The Moon's Influence.

The notion that the moon exerts an influence on weather is so deeply rooted that, notwithstanding all the attacks which have been made against it since meteorology has been seriously studied, it continues to retain its hold upon us. And yet there never was a popular superstition more utterly without a basis than this one. If the moon did really possess any power over weather, that power could only be exercised in one of three ways—by reflection of the sun's rays, by attraction, or by emanation. No other form of action is conceivable. Now, as the brightest light of a full moon is never equal in intensity or quantity to that which is reflected toward us by a white cloud on a summer day, it can scarcely be pretended that weather is affected by such a cause. That the moon does exert attraction on us is manifest—we see its working in the tides; but, though it can move water, it is most unlikely that it can do the same to air, for the specific gravity of the atmosphere is so small that there is nothing to be attracted. Laplace, calculated, indeed, that the joint attraction of the sun and moon could not stir the atmosphere at a quicker rate than five miles a day. As for lunar emanations, not a sign of them has ever been discovered. The idea of an influence produced by the phases of the moon is therefore based on no recognizable cause whatever. Furthermore, it is now distinctly shown that no variations at all really occur in weather at the moment of the changes of quarter, any more than at other ordinary times. Since the establishment of meteorological stations all over the earth, it has been proved by millions of observations that there is no simultaneousness whatever between the supposed cause and the supposed effect. The whole story is a fancy and a superstition, which has been handed down to us uncontrolled, and which we have accepted as it came from our forefathers without questioning for a reason.—*Ex.*

#### Dust for Animals in Winter.

The almost indispensable necessity of an ample supply of dust for animals in winter, is understood by very few stock growers. All sorts of animals delight in a dust bath. Chickens who have easy and constant access to it will never be troubled with vermin, neither in their houses, or on their bodies. Cattle delight to stand in a dusty road, scraping it up with their fore-feet and flinging it all over their backs. The cheapest and most effective way for lice on cattle is to scatter a quart of perfectly dry dust along the spine from the horns to the tail. In winter, when they cannot get it, many animals become covered with vermin. The writer has a range of eight wagons, with strips eight inches wide nailed close to the ground free on three sides, into which a dozen wheelbarrow loads of dust are placed every fall. Here the poultry delight to wallow and roll in the sun. It is also kept and used on all the other stock at stated intervals, and no vermin of any sort is ever seen on any of them. This is at once the most certain remedy for these pests, while the stock is being supplied with what they crave, and what they need. It is a simple matter to supply them with it, and what they cannot when restrained and tied in yards and stables.—*Prairie Farmer.*

A Minnesota farmer tells in the *Farmer's Union* how they have to save fuel in his State—I am not talking to those who have got "dead loads" of wood, but to those who have to "go down" on fuel. Out here on the prairies, where we either pay \$3 per cord for wood, or burn "slow" hay for fuel, we make every straw count. It has got to be a common expression here that "you put in storm such a year, you windows and you will give one half your fuel; you put a good sheet-iron drum on your stove and you will save the other half; and you put a damper in the pipe above the drum and you will have fuel to sell." This is "too thick;" but the storm sheds are nice for two reasons: they keep out a great deal of cold; and what is much more pleasant, there is always a clear view with no frost to scrape off, if you wish to look out; save running to the door to see who is going by and letting in cold; also a stove-house, or storm-door, is a great saving of fuel. The drum on the stove is similar to the old-fashioned cleaveland oven, which we used to see in our boyhood days. I am writing by a day fire. I burn one-fourth cord of wood in two weeks—\$2; and \$2 worth of hay (a ton) will last me from four to five weeks; but it takes lots of time to "twist" it into just such shapes as our grandmothers used to do up skins of game, only the hay will be in a longer form.

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#### Small Pigs Growing in Favor.

Worcester's Monthly says: "It is only a few years since swine breeders were vying with each other for the greatest weight of carcasses; but this is changed. Hogs that will weigh five hundred pounds are sold at a less price per pound than those of two hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds. The market in England has long favored light weights. London is chiefly supplied with pigs of less than two hundred pounds weight. And this tendency of the market to pigs well fattened but of small weight is just what the farmer should encourage, for it is exactly in the line of his interest. It costs more to make a second one hundred pounds of a pig than the first, and still more to make the third one hundred pounds, and so every pound added becomes more expensive."

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#### Hereford Cattle.

The best Herefordshire cattle display all those points which are considered as marks of true beauty in the finest specimens of British cattle; such as a light fore-end, broad and deep bosom, straight back, and a round barrel, produced by a broad projecting rib—the loins broad, the hip-bones spreading wide and standing high and level with the top of the back, and pushing forward to the first rib—long and flat quarters, &c.; and considering the size and weight of these animals, they are remarkably small in the bone, but the feet are more spread than those of lighter cattle. The oxen are in great repute for purposes of husbandry, the plowing in the county of Hereford being almost wholly done by them.

#### American Women in Social Life.

From an able and interesting article in the *Universal Quarterly* for October, 1876, on "Beauty in Common Life," by Rev. A. D. May, we extract the closing paragraphs, commending them to all our readers:

The young women of our American cities hold in their hands a power for good or harm. The grand foe of American social life is in the tendency to luxury and effeminacy among the idle-to-do young women of our American cities and large towns. They do not realize how this dreadful mania for expensive pleasures, and a life of idleness and amusement is destroying their health; abolishing true marriage; feeding the flame of gross sensuality and intemperance among young men, and adding the hopes of the best parents of the land. Some of them never will know it in this world. But most of them have no real purpose to waste their lives in this way. And it is a high crime in mothers, teachers, ministers of religion, and the public press to pandor to this insanity. Thousands of good-hearted young girls are sacrificed every year when a little wise and loving guidance could save them.

But we feel they should be told that unless they change this life they will pass away like the flowers of June, and a more hardy and resolute class occupy their places. American society will shed every class of triflers,

male or female, that does not do its work, as the forests shed their withered leaves. Let them awake from their dream of social indulgence; learn to live out of doors; to build up their health; to cultivate more simple tastes in dress, and more moderation in pleasure; study domestic economy; study social skill and tact; fit themselves for the nobler positions ever yet offered to their sex, and learn that woman is the soul of American life, not the tiara on its garment. O, that all who have the care of such may be gifted with persuasive love that will win them to holiness and beauty in one.

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Worcester's Monthly says: "It is only a few years since swine breeders were vying with each other for the greatest weight of carcasses; but this is changed. Hogs that will weigh five hundred pounds are sold at a less price per pound than those of two hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds. The market in England has long favored light weights. London is chiefly supplied with pigs of less than two hundred pounds weight. And this tendency of the market to pigs well fattened but of small weight is just what the farmer should encourage, for it is exactly in the line of his interest. It costs more to make a second one hundred pounds of a pig than the first, and still more to make the third one hundred pounds, and so every pound added becomes more expensive."

#### The Moon's Influence.

The notion that the moon exerts an influence on weather is so deeply rooted that, notwithstanding all the attacks which have been made against it since meteorology has been seriously studied, it continues to retain its hold upon us. And yet there never was a popular superstition more utterly without a basis than this one. If the moon did really possess any power over weather, that power could only be exercised in one of three ways—by reflection of the sun's rays, by attraction, or by emanation. No other form of action is conceivable. Now, as the brightest light of a full moon is never equal in intensity or quantity to that which is reflected toward us by a white cloud on a summer day, it can scarcely be pretended that weather is affected by such a cause. That the moon does exert attraction on us is manifest—we see its working in the tides; but, though it can move water, it is most unlikely that it can do the same to air, for the specific gravity of the atmosphere is so small that there is nothing to be attracted. Laplace, calculated, indeed, that the joint attraction of the sun and moon could not stir the atmosphere at a quicker rate than five miles a day. As for lunar emanations, not a sign of them has ever been discovered. The idea of an influence produced by the phases of the moon is therefore based on no recognizable cause whatever. Furthermore, it is now distinctly shown that no variations at all really occur in weather at the moment of the changes of quarter, any more than at other ordinary times. Since the establishment of meteorological stations all over the earth, it has been proved by millions of observations that there is no simultaneousness whatever between the supposed cause and the supposed effect. The whole story is a fancy and a superstition, which has been handed down to us uncontrolled, and which we have accepted as it came from our forefathers without questioning for a reason.—*Ex.*

#### Hereford Cattle.

The best Herefordshire cattle display all those points which are considered as marks of true beauty in the finest specimens of British cattle; such as a light fore-end, broad and deep bosom, straight back, and a round barrel, produced by a broad projecting rib—the loins broad, the hip-bones spreading wide and standing high and level with the top of the back, and pushing forward to the first rib—long and flat quarters, &c.; and considering the size and weight of these animals, they are remarkably small in the bone, but the feet are more spread than those of lighter cattle. The oxen are in great repute for purposes of husbandry, the plowing in the county of Hereford being almost wholly done by them.

#### American Women in Social Life.

From an able and interesting article in the *Universal Quarterly* for October, 1876, on "Beauty in Common Life," by Rev. A. D. May, we extract the closing paragraphs, commending them to all our readers:

The young women of our American cities hold in their hands a power for good or harm. The grand foe of American social life is in the tendency to luxury and effeminacy among the idle-to-do young women of our American cities and large towns. They do not realize how this dreadful mania for expensive pleasures, and a life of idleness and amusement is destroying their health; abolishing true marriage; feeding the flame of gross sensuality and intemperance among young men, and adding the hopes of the best parents of the land. Some of them never will know it in this world. But most of them have no real purpose to waste their lives in this way. And it is a high crime in mothers, teachers, ministers of religion, and the public press to pandor to this insanity. Thousands of good-hearted young girls are sacrificed every year when a little wise and loving guidance could save them.

But we feel they should be told that unless they change this life they will pass away like the flowers of June, and a more hardy and resolute class occupy their places. American society will shed every class of triflers,

mostly having a white tassel at the end of the tail.

The bulls, like those of Devonshire, are apt to be high and thick upon the neck, which cannot be considered a blemish, it being peculiar to the bull only, and is undoubtedly the effect of health and high blood.

As breeding is the first object with the Herefordshire farmer, the dairy, of course, is not much considered, and the quantity of milk that an individual cow may give is not often ascertained. The calves are kept with the cows; the farmer only attends to the dairy as a convenience for his own family; but it is said the average of a good dairy (of which there are a few) is about 3 cwt. of cheese in a year from one cow, or 2 lbs. of butter by the day. Though the summer—the calves are of a dainty nature, the wool of a fine grain, and weighs from 24 to 40 lbs. per quarter, at six or nine weeks old. The cows when fattened weigh from 9 to 12 cwt. the quarter, sometimes from 13 to 16. Oxen from 14 to 18 or 20 cwt. the quarter. They have thin hides, and the weight is proportioned to the size of the animal. There is a smaller breed of cattle in Herefordshire, which seems to be crossed with some of the coarser Welsh breeds, that have a much harder and heavier hide than the larger sort, which shows their excellence in nothing so much as in having a fine soft skin and small bone. Seven or eight years back a good cow of this breed was worth from 12 to 15 guineas, which at present would fetch from 18 to 25. A pair of steers, or young oxen for work, then worth £28 now fetch £38, and such oxen from the yoke that were worth £18 each now produce from £20 to £30, or more.

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