

I find a lot of queer bits of information, and among others, the following :

Mr. Weld, speaking of his travels in N. America, says : " The wine of the island of Montreal is good beyond description." Was this wine made from wild or cultivated grapes? Who knows? Weld, of the date of whose travels I am in doubt, was a member of a well known family, which adhered, and still, I believe, adheres, to the old faith, and would doubtless be on good terms with the clergy of the colony, the only agriculturists of the time worth speaking about. I fancy the Welds (1) are Cheshire or Shropshire people, and their place is " something Castle" (Lulworth?) but the name I forget. Any information on the subject thankfully received.

*Apatite.*—This word is derived from the Greek *απαταει*, to cheat! Not that there is any deceit in our apatite, though perhaps it leads some of the proprietors of the mines into devious ways, such as assertions that it is better simply ground than dissolved in sulphuric acid.

*Swedes.*—Some day or other, I hope we shall get at the truth of what a ton of swedes will really do in the way of making meat. Professor Playfair, now the Rt. Hon. Lyon Playfair, found, as long ago as 1846, that one ton of swedes given to sheep served a yearling wether 19 weeks, he eating 17 pounds a day. We saw just now, while considering Mr. Pawlett's experiments, that a lamb increased on an average about 10 lbs. in 28 days, and of course a two-tooth sheep—Prof. Playfair's sheep's age—would fat faster. Thus,  $2\frac{1}{7}^0 = 130$  days : 28 : 131 : : 10 : 46.79.

Or, allowing for age, at least 50 lbs. of mutton; which, even at our prices at Sorel, would be equal to \$3.00 for a ton of swedes. Whereas if, as "Quebec" contends, swedes are only worth 49 cents a ton, the produce of meat, at 6 cents a pound, made from a ton, would be only 8½ pounds!

ARTHUR R. JENNER FUST.

#### OUR ENGRAVINGS.

Holstein Friesian Cow.

Smoke House.

Henwife fattening coop.

Polled-Angus bull.—1st prize at Islington.

#### Experiments with Vetches.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—It is probable the best English variety, the Gore vetch, has never had a fair trial in the United States, for in all cases it is far superior to the other spring kinds, and it is relished by animals more than peas or any other forage crop. In England this spring vetch follows the old-fashioned winter variety, the latter being sowed generally with rye, two bushels of each, about August, when they become very thick and forward, giving a great bulk for feeding through the next May. The Gore, mixed with oats, is sown as soon as the land can be prepared in spring, and gives an immense crop for following the winter vetches and rye, and will last through June. Horses are exceedingly fond of vetches, and those not used for fast riding and driving are fed freely with them, but the farmers fold their sheep and feed great quantities, which enables them to mow more grass for hay.

After the vetches are eaten, the land is cultivated for the root crops—swedes and turnips—thus taking two crops, and eating them, where formerly a naked fallow came. (2)

(1) There is a branch of the family at Tavistock Court, Devonshire, but that, if I remember rightly, conformed to the state church.

A. R. J. F.

(2) Rarely swedes, but white turnips and rape. Strange to say, I never heard of this Gore vetch. Can any body tell me anything about it?

A. R. J. F.

Gentlemen who like trying experiments can readily obtain the seed through any of the reliable agricultural seedsmen, if they give the order in time, and for this year it is time now, as foreign seeds are not kept in any quantity here. When in full bloom and until the pods are filling, animals thrive the best upon them. If eaten before the blossom shows, they are too relaxing, and if fed when nearly ripe, the pods and top ends will be eaten, and the stems near the ground rejected. (1) G. G.

—Pittsfield, Mass.

#### Blindfolding Bulls.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—For two years I have kept my bulls blindfolded in pasture and stable, by making rings that will slip up to base of horns, nearly, allowing room for a 1½-inch strap to pass through, strap to be riveted to a piece of sole or harness leather, wide enough to hang over their eyes, preventing them from seeing forward, the straps to pass



through the rings on horns and into buckles in front. A light strap should also pass from ring to ring across the forehead. Also strap from leather blind to nose ring, as a bull soon learns, if latter strap is not on, to throw the blindfold back on to his neck. This arrangement will beat the worst bull in existence.

P.

Cayuga County, N. Y.

#### The Shropshire and other sheep

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—I notice in your issue of March 3 (p. 172), that Mr. Wood in answer to questions on different breeds of sheep, at the Ithaca meeting, stated that the purest breed was the South-Down; "they are bred so high that they have reached their highest point; when brought over here they go back every time; they cannot be kept up to the standard." That sounds queer to me. I was not aware that any breed reached a point so high that they were in danger of toppling over. It is true that the South-Down, being the oldest of the Down breeds in England, has received more care in the breeding and feeding, and perhaps has been "pampered" more than any other English breed; and when brought to this country and falling into the hands of breeders that do not give these sheep the care that they had received in England, they will to some extent fail to look as well in the show-pen; but the good qualities of the breed remain, nevertheless, and I believe that to the South-Down the mutton breeders of this country are very much indebted for creating a market for their lambs; in fact I believe that

(1) As a rule, all our best south of England farmers sow the small winter-vetch even in the spring. The yield is less than the yield of the spring-tares, but the quality is far superior.

A. R. J. F.