

a considerable extent, we think that following is the most cheap and easy way of cleaning and fertilizing foul and exhausted soils. The rent and taxes are not heavy here, that we should have a great objection to lose a year's crop of portions of our land. But under any circumstance, one good crop would pay the farmer better than three bad crops, obtained from foul and exhausted soil. In our next number, we expect we shall be able to give a more full report of the state of the spring sowing and planting, and the appearance of the crop.

Cote St. Paul, May 17th, 1842.

#### SOCIETIES INSTITUTED IN BRITISH AMERICA FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

*The British American Cultivator* has been published with a view to promote the improvement of husbandry, and to advocate the interests of those engaged in that business. It is for agriculturists to judge whether, so far it has been conducted in a manner that would be calculated to produce any benefit to them. It must be well understood that this periodical cannot be published without a considerable expense to the Proprietor. If it possesses any merit as an Agricultural Journal, it certainly does not show much generosity in those for whose benefit it is published, if they do not give it their unanimous support.—The charge of one dollar a year, including postage, is not much. Indeed we would hope that we may be able to furnish in each future number, new and interesting information, that would be worth double that sum to every Subscriber who is open to improvement. We have sources of information in our power that no individual agriculturist can possess, and we shall use every possible diligence to make selections, that will be acceptable and useful to Subscribers. As we observed in former numbers, we do not pretend to instruct those who may be much better qualified to instruct ourselves; but nevertheless we may be permitted to say, that we expect to have it in our power to make the columns of *The British American Cultivator* useful to the best qualified agriculturists in this portion of the British Empire. The very best qualified in any profession might receive a useful suggestion, from one of very inferior qualification to himself. For our own part we have invariably been inclined to doubt the pretensions of those who conceive themselves to be above all instruction, and particularly if they belong to our own class. We should always remember that while we are in this state of existence, it is possible for us to learn something useful, and those who think otherwise, are generally more in want of instruction than those of more moderate pretensions.—Agricultural Societies are instituted for the encouragement of agricultural improvement. If the members of those Societies find this periodical calculated to promote the same object, we confidently appeal to them for support. We hinted in our last that two Societies had already ordered a considerable number of our journal—and we have now the pleasure of announcing to our readers, that the Society for the Niagara District have ordered sixty copies of *The Cultivator*, and we expect the Societies in the other Districts will follow their patriotic example.

If each Agricultural Society, established throughout the Province, were to order a few numbers, for distribution amongst non-Subscribers to *The Cultivator*, it would be a means of

recommendation and support. The Cultivator would be a medium of communication between the Societies and the farmers.

Agricultural Societies are of little use unless they make their views and proceedings known to the public. We offer them the means of doing so, and we ask them for their countenance and support, by becoming Subscribers, as a Society, to *The Cultivator*. We shall have more confidence, and be the better able to serve the cause we advocate, if we feel conscious that we are supported by the best instructed of the class to which we belong.

We have frequently seen American agricultural papers, having a circulation of from 20 to 25 thousand, making an appeal for every subscriber to become an agent, and procure not less than ten new subscribers each to their journal. We have no desire to make such an unreasonable request, but would hope that every subscriber to our paper, who thinks it worthy of support, would at least, recommend it to the favourable notice of their neighbours, and endeavour to enlist them in our ranks.

A Subscriber from Frampton, (near Quebec), makes the following inquiries, to which we kindly solicit the attention of our readers, and hope they will be promptly answered by those who may have had practical experience on the treatment of those diseases. We would have given our opinion and experience on these subjects ourselves, but forego the opportunity in the hope that it will elicit new and valuable correspondents to our journal. He states that the horned cattle in that neighbourhood are sorely afflicted with the horn distemper, and the horses much subject to bots; both of which not unfrequently prove fatal. He further wishes some instruction on the breaking and management of oxen.

#### GESTATION IN ANIMALS.

We have seen several interesting reports of experiments that have been made to ascertain the period of gestation in domesticated animals, and from them we have selected the following:—

"The experiment made by order of Earl Spencer on cows, has been reported in the Journals of The Royal Agricultural Society, and is very full and satisfactory. The number of cows noted was 761. The shortest period in which a live calf was produced was 229 days, or not much over seven months, but no calf produced in less than 242 days, or about eight months, could be raised. The longest period of gestation was 313 days, or ten months and 9 days. Of the 761 cows, 314 calved before the 281 days, and 310 calved after the 285th day. From this it would appear that the probable gestation in the cow may be fixed at 285 days, or nine months and a half, and our own experience perfectly agrees with this.

The report of M. Tessier of Paris, of his experiment, made on the experimental farm established by the French government, both on cows and mares, shows the following results:—Of 582 mares which received the male but once, the shortest period of gestation was 257 days, or little more than nine months and a half—and the longest 419 days, or about thirteen months and a half, making a difference of 132 days, or over four months. Of 575 cows, 21 calved between the 210th and 270th day—541 calved between the 270th and the 299th day—Mean 282 days—and 10 calved between the 299th and 321st day—Mean 313 days.

A German publication gives the following table:—

Animal.	Shortest period.	Longest period.	Mean period.
Mare. ....	322 days	419 days	347 days.
Cow. ....	249 do.	321 do.	283 do.
Swine. ....	146 do.	161 do.	154 do.
Sheep. ....	109 do.	143 do.	115 do.

Professor Johnson observes, "That any calf produced at an earlier period than 260 days must be considered decidedly premature, and any period of gestation exceeding 300 days must also be considered irregular; but in the latter case the health of the produce is not affected."

#### HORSE TRAINING.

The plan mentioned by Mr. Cullen, as adopted by the Indians in subduing and training the *Mestos* or wild horse, by covering the eyes, and breathing into the nostrils, has been lately tried by Mr. Ellis in Yorkshire, and with singular success. One of the animals experimented on was remarkably head-strong, and apt to rear and kick with his forefeet, rendering it exceedingly difficult to get at his head, which was only effected by climbing a tree to which the filly was tied, and leaning over as far as was practicable. The moment one nostril was breathed into all was easy.—W., who was very skilful in the management of a horse, coaxed it, and rubbed its face, and breathed from time to time into the nostril, while the horse offered no resistance. In about ten minutes he declared his conviction that the horse was subdued; and he then unfastened it, and to the great and evident astonishment of the owner (who had been trying all the morning in vain to gain a mastery over it), led it quietly away with a loose halter. Stopping in the middle of the field with no one else near, he quietly walked up to the horse, placed his arm over one eye, and his hand over the other, and breathed into the nostril. It was pleasing to observe how agreeable this operation appeared to the horse, who put up his nose to receive the puff. In this manner he led the horse through all the fields to the stable yard, where he examined the fore feet, and then the hind feet of the horse, who offered no resistance—but while he was examining the hind feet, bent his neck round, and kept nosing his back. He next buckled on a surcingle, and then a saddle, and finally bit the horse with a rope. During the whole of these operations the horse did not offer the slightest resistance, nor did it flinch in the least degree.—*M. L. Express.*

#### ABORTION OR COWS SLINKING CALF.

This is most probably occasioned by tying up cattle and breeding them on bad hay or stale grain, and should, therefore, be prevented by pursuing a better method. The hog on unwholesome food with want of exercise, occasions indigestion and flatulency, and thus probably so disturbs the young calf in the uterus, as to cause either abortion, or such an alteration in its position, as to render delivery difficult, and often impracticable. When a cow slips a calf, and anything offensive is left in the field, all pregnant cows smelling it, are liable to the same. Every thing that is of an offensive smell, especially putrid flesh or blood, should always be carefully removed. In Gloucestershire, they suffer the cows to eat the after-birth, and it is supposed to be useful.—*Whites' Cattle Medicine.*

#### THE EFFECTS OF DRAINING.

There is a field on the estate of the Earl of Leicester, at Longford, in this county, which some years ago, was occupied by Mr. John Sheratt, and brought forth rushes in such abundance, that the occupier gave leave to any body to carry them away who would be at the trouble to mow them. Three years ago, the field was drained, under the direction of Mr. T. Harper of Foster, and this year, we are told, the present occupier, Mr. Robinson, has cut three tons per acre, of a rice herbago as every grow.—*Derbyshire Chron.*