

foot. Some floormen take a pride in having their nails driven high up, and in an even line; and in order to do this, they will often drive the nails so close to the inner surface of the wall as to either penetrate the sensitive laminae, or, at least, cause a bulging inward in its course; either of which causes lameness. Much damage is done to the foot by the use of the rasp in removing the glutinous covering of the wall in the senseless custom of polishing the wall of the foot at the time of shoeing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Durham, 22nd Nov. 1880.

Sir.—As the subject of dairy stock is one of no ordinary importance to the farmers of the Eastern Townships at present, and much advice is offered both in American and Canadian papers on this subject—as a practical farmer I would beg indulgence to lay before your numerous readers my feeble experience in this matter.

I commenced farming in the year 1850, on a farm of 240 acres of land, 150 acres clear, with four grade cows, some young stock, and a pair of horses: the Eastern Townships, farmers at this date were making great efforts to obtain Durhams, or Shorthorns. All had a taste for them; myself along with the rest.

The late R. N. Watts, Esq., of Drummondville, M. P. P. for the county, was at this time an extensive and successful breeder of Shorthorns. The fabulous prices for which he sold them, as well as carrying off all the large prizes at our exhibitions, excited the farmers of this district to a terrible pitch. I would myself have often given Mr. Watts three out of my four cows for one of his pure Durhams. However, I at last got hold of a Durham bull from the Hon. Geo. Vails' herd, West Troy, and considered my fortune made. I crossed with this bull my native and grade cattle, and bred some very good milkers, but was not yet content with the half-breeds, thinking when they were so good, that the pure breeds must be very much better.

Now an opportunity presents itself by which I secure to myself a thoroughbred Durham cow. A young gentleman from England purchased a farm in the Township of Kingsey, and stocked it with imported Durhams. Among his herd was a very fine three years old heifer: she took first prizes at Three-Rivers, Sherbrooke, and Montreal. She was again shown as a cow in 1857 at Montreal, when she took first prize and a gold medal, and subsequently first prize at Hamilton. The owner, about 1860, makes an auction sale of all his thoroughbreds. I was bound to have this cow in order to complete my fortune. When she was brought out of the stable, it took the auctioneer some time to read the long pedigree, the long list of prizes she had taken, and to exhibit the medals: and to complete the programme, she was pronounced the best cow in Lower Canada, having beaten all competitors at the public Exhibitions. This famous cow was adjudged to me for the sum of one hundred and five dollars and seventy-five cents.

In the same year that I made this lucky purchase, I bought a small native Canadian cow for the sum of fourteen dollars. She calved on the eleventh of April. As no value was placed on her calf, it was not raised. The English cow dropped her calf on the third of May, a bull calf. The milking cows were turned to grass on the 24th of May, they were not long on the grass before the little Canadian cow became mistress of the large Durham cow, which looked more like a 7 foot ox than a milking cow, and to look at her bag, you would fancy she would fill two pails of milk to one of the others. About the middle of June, one of the young ladies milking the cows reported that the little French cow was the best of the lot, not only in milk but in richness for butter, that strong spikes of butter would be always found on her milk. I, as a matter of course, wishing to maintain the character of the English cow, argued in her favour; stating that it was not altogether for milking qualities that she was bought, but for the general improvement of my stock. On the fifth day of July, in order to settle all disputes, the mistress had the milk of these two cows separated, and the cream was churned on the 10th. The French cow giving 5½ lbs. of butter in the five days, the Durham cow giving four lbs. two ounces. On the first of November the Durham cow was dry, while the French cow continued to milk until after Christmas on the very same food. Now, Mr. Editor, as this is a matter of dollars and cents to the farmer, you will observe that according to the amount of capital invested in the imported cow and called the best in Lower Canada, that I could have purchased seven Canadian cows and had seven dollars and seventy-five cents over, in other words, with 7 dollars and 75 cents added to the one hundred and 5 dollars and 75 cents I could have purchased eight native cows.

Now let me say a word on the food or keep of these cows. As some farmers may think that if the cows were placed on short pasture the native cow would have an advantage over the large cow, being able to fill herself in much less time than the large cow, while the large cow might be kept on foot the greater part of the day in order to collect ample food: my pastures were first class, and I found when stabled that the large cow consumed more than double the amount of food that the native cow did (1).

THOS. BRADY.

Dear Sir—A great deal is usually said, at this season, through the medium of our Agricultural press, on winter care of stock; at the same time, but few of our agricultural writers touch upon feeding, except in a general way; leaving the number of times a day that horned animals should be fed during the winter months to the convenience of the owners; or if they do tell us to feed three, or more times a day, they neglect to tell us why we should do so.—I do not care to accept or make an assertion in this matter, without proof, and I hope to be able to prove to you, that twice each day is the proper number of times to feed our stock through the winter months.

There is no doubt, that to men who are accustomed to keep their cattle eating all the time, it will look like hard lines; but it is economy both in food and labor. To understand this subject thoroughly, we must consider that our horned animals are ruminating animals; their stomachs are very large, much larger than that of the horse, (in which digestion goes on very rapidly), and for digestion to take place perfectly, these large stomachs must be full.

If we feed a stablefull of cattle at daylight in the morning; I mean, give them all they want; what will they be doing at noon? If other cattle are like mine they will be chewing their cud—ruminating, or digesting. Now, what is the sense, of stopping the process of digestion, by asking them to get up and eat again. If they were not given a full feed, then digestion has not taken place perfectly; and I may say, will not take place perfectly. If it is not (as every body will admit), the great amount we, or our animals eat, but rather what we digest, that makes us fat, then it clearly follows, that we must fill the stomachs of our horned animals before they will digest perfectly; and after filling them, must wait for digestion to take place, and not interfere, by asking them to eat again, until the process is complete. I have in my mind, now, a man past his three score and ten years, who very often compares notes with us on the condition of our respective herds, and he always admits, that mine are in the best order. He feeds five times, and I feed twice a day. He says: "when it is noon I want my dinner, and I know my cattle do," and I retaliate, by asking him how many times a day he feeds his young calves in spring, and also ask him what the philosophy is of feeding a young animal, that I suppose naturally eats very often, twice a day, and when it is grown up feeding it from three to five times a day. He always says "they are hungry," and I say they always are hungry, because their digestion is imperfect.

Some may say, that cattle feed nearly all the time in summer. Of course they do, for the very reason that it takes them nearly all the time to get full; and when full, as a matter of course, it does not take so long to digest a stomach full of green food, as it would one of dry.

I always notice on entering a stable in which cattle are fed three or more times a day, or fed irregularly even, that as soon as the door is open they are all on their feet looking for something to eat. I presume, and I think to myself "there is a screw loose in the management;" for a well fed herd i. e., a herd that has all they will eat twice each day, will pay no attention to any kind of a racket between meals.

We bipeds eat and sleep at certain seasons, from the force of habit; and as the most of us are constrained to eat our three meals a day from earliest childhood, and usually have an appetite for them, we think per force we must feed our stock in the same manner, not stopping to consider the vast difference in our digestive apparatus.

When we feed our herds twice a day we are but educating their stomachs to assist nature in the process of digesting dry food; but when we feed more than twice we are educating—No we are not educating, it is rather a lack of all education, for it is going against nature.

I have said nothing about watering, for every one will concede that stock must have water at least once a day, but twice would be better.—If stock has water but once a day it should be directly after eating in the morning, or else not until after digestion has taken place.

(1) In a recent visit to the township of Durham, we heard it generally admitted that what is called "The cow from the French country" has been universally found superior as a milker and a butter maker to the larger breeds. — We are thankful to Mr. Brady for the above details of his experience in the matter.