

work to pay its keeping, the master has received enough besides its manure to pay a heavy interest on its cost, as we will presently see. This primitive work, which would have been injurious under a careless management, is, on the contrary, beneficial when it is in the hands of a good master. This is so much the general case that the contrary is the exception. This animal grows and becomes better developed in size and strength.

Now, as before observed, the Beauce farmer comes to buy. He lives in the country of proverbial richness. The work there is abundant, but the nature of the soil renders it extremely easy. The fields, very much divided and distant from one another, make a rapid gait indispensable.

At three years old the Percheron dealer sells his horse, but only to replace him by the purchase of other colts, and the profit has been, in fact, sufficiently large to warrant him in this. He has had against him only the chances of mortality. This is small, the race being tough and hardy. Accidents sometimes occur, and are more to be dreaded. Living in the open air, in the company of other animals, the young colt is a little exposed to the influences of chance. But the fields are enclosed, the master's eye upon it, and, to sum up all, the large profits cover everything. Reaching Beauce at three years old, he is subject to hard work. The work is easy enough, but there is much of it. He must be quick. The breadth of land is very extensive, and the work must be done. Sowing and harvesting. These two words sum up the agricultural work of the country; or, in other words, plowing and hauling. As regards the horse, all must be done quickly and promptly. But if he be hard worked, on the other hand, nothing is denied him. He eats as much grain and hay as he pleases. What difference does this make to the farmer? Do not his labor and his manure pay for his nourishment? And, moreover, how act otherwise? As we have seen, nothing can supply his place. Necessity has no law. He lives in this way a year, with abundant food. Sometimes he succumbs. The mortality is quite large in this region, but the stock which remains after such training offers many guarantees to the dealer who buys it to transfer, if they suit, to the express and omnibus companies, or to the contractors, wagoners, or builders of Paris.

At five he is bought by the horse dealer at the annual horse fairs. There he is delivered, the farmer leading his horse upon the ground. Before being dedicated to his final use, he has passed through four hands, and all of these have shared the risk of his rearing. The most serious has been for the last owner, but he was also the wealthiest, and to him, also, he has been the most useful.

Thus we see a breed of the highest economical and practical utility, the colts of which are raised at a moderate cost, and their work pays for their keeping. Well fed, exercised from his earliest age, the Percheron has always been the best rapid draft horse in the world, and will continue to improve unless the admirable qualities he possesses lead to his future degeneration. The success of the Percheron race has been very great. All departments and all nations wish to acclimate it. The prices of these stallions have increased so rapidly in the past few years that they have doubled and trebled, and accordingly the possessors sell them. The administrative authorities attempted to hinder the emigration. They formed a stud stable at Bonval and attempted a regular and continuous improvement. Prizes were offered at Mortagne, Nogent Le Rotrou, Illiers and Vendome. But an end was arrived at contrary from what was expected or desired. The prizes served as signs to the foreign buyers. Perche was visited to buy first-class horses. What surer guarantee than the prize? And how can the breeders resist the almost fabulous prices offered for their stallions? They can not, and thus disappear the flower of their stallions and brood mares.

The Month.

The past month, we may add the past winter, has been unprecedentedly mild. We do not remember of our having so little snow or cold weather in March or during the past winter. Our exchange papers have been teaming with notices of foolhardy persons that have sown grain in February or the first of March. If such persons would report results of grain sown in season and out of season, they might do some good in the world; but the mere reporting of shearing sheep in February, planting potatoes, or having premature growth, or double-headed lambs is of no value, profitable re-

sults, or what this journal wishes to record. We believe in sowing early, but not out of season. Onions, carrots and lettuce cannot be sown too early, to fact they may be sown in the autumn for early crops. A late spring is generally the surest for a profitable harvest. Premature growth is apt to get a check from which it will never recover, or late frost may destroy a crop. The present season will tempt many to sow too early. Do not be led astray because Mr. S. has sown a month ago. Sow and plant at a proper time of the year. More profitable results will be had by holding your corn, beans, &c., until the Queen's Birthday, than having such plants growing finely in the beginning of April; in fact, some farmers whom we know make a point of sowing some of their flower seeds from the first to the fifth of June. They say they have no complaints to make of bad seeds, and have flowers in the autumn when others that attempted to get ahead of them have none.

The winter wheat is looking unusually well. Spring work is far advanced, as farmers could plow later and earlier than usual. We hope all our readers that have orchards have cut all the twigs out of them that have tent caterpillars' eggs deposited in them. If not, do so at once before they all spread. Perhaps this hint may be too late for some localities.

While advising caution in sowing prematurely, early sown crops are generally better than those sown late.

War prospects have excited the markets. Should war be declared it will increase the price of stock and products.

Petunia Fimbriata, fl. pl.

On page 73 will be found a cut of this beautiful annual, which has been improved wonderfully since its first introductions, so that now we have many varieties both double and single. A well-filled circular bed, six feet in diameter, will display, without a day's intermission, thousands of flowers. The double varieties bear no seed; therefore, to produce double flowers single ones must be fertilized with the pollen of double ones, which is a slow and expensive process, and the seed is consequently high in proportion.

The seed being very fine, care should be taken not to cover it too deep in sowing, or the plants may never appear.

The above variety is described by the raiser in the following terms:—

"Among the seedlings might have been seen flowers rivaling in doubleness those of the double garden poppies, and emulating in color the richness and delicacy of tints of the finest carnations."

The seed sown in spring will produce flowering plants in June that will continue to bloom abundantly till frost. Seed may be sown in a cold frame or hot-bed, or in the open ground, set about 18 inches apart.

While admitting the double Petunia to be a splendid novelty, we must say a few words for a few more choice varieties which, if once given a trial, would doubly repay the amateur for his expense and labor. We often see advertised what we call common annuals at a low price, and which look very pretty to the amateur florist, but as the love, knowledge and practical experience increase, so does the love for the more choice varieties increase. Our gardeners and florists invariably purchase the choicest of seeds. Why do not our amateurs likewise? By so doing, in a few years the so-called common annual flower seeds will be out of existence.

For the benefit of those who are unacquainted with the selections of flower seeds we give space below for a few of the more choice varieties of flowers:—

Abronia umbellata, Amaranthus candatus, Amar-

anthussalicifolius, Aster truffants—peony flowered; Balsam—Camelia flowered; Candytuft—carnation; Diantus—several varieties; Mignonette—new prize; Nasturtium—dwarf; Pansy—choicest mixed; Petunia—single and double sorts; Phlox Drummondii, Portulacca—double and single; Sanvitalia procumbens, Ten Week Stocks, Verbena and Zinnia.

A Rival for Wheat.

In a circular recently issued by a firm in Massachusetts the cultivation of broom corn as a profitable crop and a good substitute for wheat as a material for bread is spoken of in very high terms. If all be true that is said in its favor, it must come into general use as one in a series of a rotation of field crops. As the State of Massachusetts differs so little in soil from Canada, its cultivation here might be found as certain and profitable as there. It might, at any rate, get a trial in different parts of the country, though on a small scale, as an experiment. It has as yet been raised only for the brush; and it is said to pay, for the brush, about \$30 per acre, viz.: weight per acre of brush, 500 to 800 pounds—the price averaging \$100 to \$200 per ton.

It is said that "the yield of flour is about half in place of two-thirds from wheat. The process of manufacture is to first crack the seed, then scour and fan, and then grind half and half with wheat, bolting the same as wheat flour. The bread, cake, &c., made from the flour is delicate, inviting and delicious, and very easily digested. The flour cannot be told from wheat flour, and, with proper bolting, yields a clear, beautiful, white wheat."

It may be all that it is claimed, or it may be worth very little more than the value of the husks. This can only be known from experiments.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts held its first meeting this year in Ottawa on the 21st of March. Thos. Stock, Esq., of Walkerton, was elected as President. The Treasurer read the following report, which was adopted:—

Receipts.	Amount.
Balance, 1st Jan'y, 1877.....	\$ 3,642 29
Received on acct. of rents.....	1,576 56
Prize account.....	2,035 85
Herd book.....	130 50
Interest.....	285 22
Prince of Wales' donation.....	800 00
Registration fees.....	111 00
Legislative grant.....	10,000 00
Exhibition receipts.....	19,767 55
Total.....	\$38,425 96
Expenditure.	Amount.
Paid in prizes.....	\$14,943 50
Miscellaneous.....	1,498 14
Salaries.....	3,020 73
Postage.....	235 50
Council expenses.....	1,349 80
Plowing matches.....	1,110 80
Exhibition expenses.....	8,438 17
Printing.....	1,247 42
Veterinary, library and museum.....	785 20
Veterinary College.....	605 00
Stationery.....	107 50
Total.....	\$38,371 81
By Balance.....	5,054 15
Total.....	\$38,425 96

More than five million cans of corn are now packed in Maine annually and sold in every part of the world, yielding a business to the State of about \$1,150,000, and giving a profitable employment to from 8,000 to 10,000 people during the packing season. This corn is grown, not in the Southern or Middle States, but in a State having a climate less favorable for its cultivation than a large part of Canada.

A STRONG COMPETITION.—A contract was let the past month to construct an iron bridge over the River Thames, between the counties of Middlesex and Elgin. Ten companies tendered for it, nearly all from across the lines. The Hamilton Tool Company were the successful contractors.

A writer in *Moore's Rural* has never known buttermilk, "poured on during warm days, to fail to cure a pig of 'black scurf,' even when the disease was of so long duration that the animal's back was raw with sores."