

but there were only 13 entries of cheese and 7 of butter. Mr. Harris's gigantic cheese arrived safely, and formed an attractive and lucrative side show all by itself. Its weight, "7,000 lbs!" conspicuously placed outside, excited general attention and wonderment. Very little honey was exhibited. Two women were at the fair, one a representative of D. P. Kidder, Vermont, and the other, W. A. Flanders, of Shelby, Ohio, in propria persona. It was reported that Kidder got so badly roasted at the New England Fair in Brattleboro', Vermont, last week, in consequence of certain tricks in the bee business, of which he has been guilty, that he deemed it the part of prudence not to show his face at Saratoga. Mr. Flanders is a thorough apiarian, and one can pick up a great deal of useful information about bees in the course of a short conversation with him. His hive is a most convenient affair, and possesses advantages not equalled by any hive we ever saw before. Made on the moveable-comb principle, it can be opened like the leaves of a book, and every frame examined with the utmost readiness. The boxes for surplus honey are made on a new principle. They have comb guides, and are put together in sections by which any portion of the contents of a box can be removed without disturbing the bees. This hive took the first premium, both at the New England and New York Fairs. Mr. Flanders' apiary consists wholly of Italian bees, and, as it is located on Kelly's Island, twelve miles from any common bees, it possesses peculiar advantages for the production and multiplication of pure Italian queens. The flax interest does not appear to flourish largely in the State of New York, judging by this exhibition. Only a single bunch, and that of inferior quality was to be seen.

The public discussions held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, were well attended and capably sustained. In this respect New-Yorkers outdo Canadians. One or two abortive attempts have been made to get up discussions on agricultural questions during our Provincial Show, and it were well if in future the example of our neighbours were better copied. The success of these discussions very much depends upon having some one to start them. This is not left to chance by the New York Society, but some able, experienced practical man is engaged beforehand to lead off in a free, conversational way. The ice once broken, there is no difficulty whatever, except in bringing the thing to a close. The most interesting discussion was on the first evening, when dairy farming, city milk farms, butter and cheese-making in families and factories, were the topics under consideration. Strange to say, much doubt appears to exist among experienced dairy-men on this side as to whether, after all, much has been gained by the factory plan. Want of conscientiousness on the part of the suppliers of the milk, seems to create almost insuperable difficulties. People will be careless about cleanliness, a most important and essential item. Adulteration is also practiced to a shameful extent. The lactometer is now defied with impunity. Men will cheat by skimming milk, or diluting it with water, and then adding salt to make it stand the lactometer test. One man it was alleged had been fined \$500 for cheating, but the factory in whose interest he had been prosecuted, had suffered to the extent of \$3,000 by the affair. A dairyman from Herkimer county, maintained that cheese can be made cheaper in private dairies than it can in factories. Many farmers are making cheese on the factory plan upon a small scale, using vats and other appliances like those by means of which labour is saved and the process expedited in factories. The discussion on Wednesday evening was on the culture of small fruits. It was opened by Prof. Burgess, of Ulster county, who showed very lucidly the profitability of raising small fruits for the market. That veteran fruit culturist, Hon. Marshall P. Wilder of Boston, was present, and added much to the interest of the evening. More than one speaker urged from experience the wisdom of planting grapes in soil not over rich. On Thursday evening the discussion was preceded by the Annual Address before the Society, delivered by Hon. Anson S. Miller, of Rockford, Illinois. It was an able sketch of the agriculture of the world in general, and the United States in particular, and eloquently eulogised the farmers' calling, as the most healthful, independent, and intellectual of human occupations. After the address a discussion of the question, "how to renovate worn out farms," was opened by Mr. Harris, late of the *Genesee Farmer*. Much interest was manifested in the subject, but nothing new was said. The importance of stock-keeping, root-growing, sheep-hurdling, clover-raising, and judicious rotations, was well urged by a number of speakers.

A Scotch farmer finds by actual measurement that his cattle drink over twenty-five gallons of water each per day.

Michigan State Fair.

[EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.]

ADRIAN, Mich., Sept. 21, 1866

ALAS for the Michiganders! They had made every "calculation" for an exhibition this year which should outstrip all its seventeen predecessors in this State, and would undoubtedly have succeeded but for the weather, which has proved most unpropitious. Tuesday it rained almost incessantly, so that the first day of the fair was a *dies non*. Wednesday, dawned cloudy and dubious-looking, and something very like a Scotch mist, filled the air until about eight o'clock, when the sky became rather more clear and the air lighter. But it was cloudy and threatening all day. Still it didn't rain, and that was a great point gained. Exhibitors plucked up courage, and the grounds assumed a very lively appearance. Machinery was got into shape, implements were unpacked and put in order, wares of all kinds were displayed and the stock stalls began to fill up. Many entries had been delayed in consequence of the condition of the weather prevalent for some time prior to the first Exhibition day, but, by Wednesday evening, 1,798 entries were made. A goodly number of visitors found their way to the grounds on the afternoon of the second day, and by evening a general feeling of hopefulness began to prevail. It was not yet too late to achieve a success. The Executive Committee would extend the fair into Saturday. It would certainly be a splendid day to-morrow. So wise a man as Mr. Sanford Howard, Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, doubted if it could rain any more, it had rained so much for the past ten days. We were by no means sanguine as to the weather clearing up, and ventured to say that if it were Canada instead of Michigan, we should expect more wet. The event justified the prediction. At midnight the sky-bottles were again uncorked and a gentle, steady rain set in. Only one hope remained when Thursday morning dawned wet and lowering. "It rains before seven, and will quit before eleven." But it didn't quit. It was worse after eleven than it had been before, and proved, with but slight and temporary intermissions, a thoroughly rainy day. Still the people wouldn't give it up. With an indomitable perseverance worthy of all praise, they resolved to wait and see what Friday would bring forth. Happily, they did not wait in vain. To-day has proved dry and for the most part sun-shiny. The grounds being sandy have dried up almost past belief. Exhibitors were on the alert at an early hour, and put things in order for the best display the case would admit of. Visitors began to flock in so soon as it became apparent that the weather had actually cleared up. All the incoming trains have been crowded with passengers, the town has been full of private conveyances, and the number of the people present at the fair during the afternoon has been variously estimated at from 6,500 to 10,000. Exclamations of pleasure and congratulations at the happy turn of affairs might be heard on every hand. The general feeling was well expressed by one jubilant individual who loudly exclaimed, "The day we celebrate has arrived at last!"

Considering that it has been emphatically State-fairing under difficulties, and those of a most formidable and depressing kind, the "Wolverines" have made a very creditable display, and one that was well worth going to see. Michigan is a much younger and far less wealthy State than New York, yet in some respects its exhibition has been nearly, if not quite, equal to that of its older and richer sister. Indeed, the show of grains, roots, vegetables, and cheese, has been, if anything, superior to that brought together last week at Saratoga. In horses, too, Michigan has far surpassed New York. This, however, is very much owing to a purse of \$2,000 and other lesser purses, having been made up partly by the Society and partly by private contribution, which are to be raced for to-morrow, if the state of the track and weather permit. Michigan has a number of noble horses, and her citizens have the reputation of being very "horsey." The Annual National Horse Fair held at Kalamazoo, the sixth of which is to come off next month, is both a proof of this and an incentive to it. Not only have the best horses owned in the State been collected on the fair grounds in Adrian this week, but "Dexter" and "Patchin," the two most celebrated race horses in the United States, are here to compete for the heaviest purse. Through

the kindness of Mr. Green, Superintendent of the horse department, we had an opportunity of examining these celebrated trotters very minutely. They are stabled in large, well-lit boxes, more like rooms than horse-stalls. The grooms unblanketed them, so that we had a good chance to study their points. They are both very ordinary-looking animals, and are not at all of the English racehorse make, though they are of the approved colour—dark brown. "Dexter" has the disfigurement of four white legs and a white face, and is the smaller horse of the two. They are smaller and heavier limbed animals than the true English race horse. "Patchin," especially, is a very heavily-built horse, and though trained to the fullest development of muscle without fat, has a clumsy look in the stable. He is a vicious brute, and though fortunately at a safe distance, aimed an aspitful kick at us during our visit to his box. "Dexter" has won upwards of \$15,000 during the present season, and has made under the saddle, the fastest time on record, viz.—2.18. Besides these noted consors, there are a number of very superior and beautiful horses on exhibition. Several handsome pairs of carriage horses were driven round the fair grounds on Wednesday and to-day, among them a superb team of iron-greys, fit for the state coach of a prince. Saddle-horses are poorly represented. There is a good show of horses of all work, and of draught horses, the latter almost wholly brought originally from Canada. Mules are bred to some extent in Michigan. Three good Kentucky jacks are on exhibition, and rend the air at intervals with their hideous braying.

The show of cattle has been exceedingly good although some classes were without a representative. We were not aware that Michigan could boast such prime Durham stock as we have seen at this fair. The principal Short Horn exhibitors are Messrs. Curtis, Conley, and Smith. "Hotspur," a six-year old bull, owned by Mr. Smith, is a very fine animal. He was bred by Mr. Harrison, of New York, got by "Duke of Gloucester," out of a cow imported by Mr. Stone, of Guelph, and sold by him to Mr. Harrison. He is, therefore, half-brother to "Oxford Lad," and very nearly his equal. There is also a red bull, four years old, owned by Mr. Conley, a son of Mr. Stone's "5th Duke of Cambridge," a very meritorious animal. Mr. Curtis has a fine three-year old bull, got by "Duke of Gloucester," out of imported "Miss Butterfly." The ring of Durham cows, ten in number, made a very fine appearance, and comprised some excellent animals. Mr. Curtis' "Lucy," bred by the Warfields, of Kentucky, would be hard to be beat anywhere. She is broad across the hips, full in the rump, and exceedingly neat about the head and fore-end generally. The Devon class had some fine animals in it, but was not equal in merit to the Short Horn class. We saw no really first-class Devon bull on the ground; there were, however, two choice Devon cows from Mr. Wainwright's well-known "Helen" family, together with a yearling heifer of great beauty and promise. No Ayrshires, Jerseys, or Galloways, were exhibited. There were a few good yokes of oxen and steers, but no grade of cattle of any particular merit. The sheep pens were well filled, at least seven-eighths of them containing Merinos. A more bedraggled, woe-begone looking lot of sheep we have seldom seen. Exposure to rain removes the greasy black coating from the Merinos in which their fanciers delight, and which from its own specific gravity and the dirt which it collects, helps to make the fleeces weigh so heavily. The choicest bucks were blanketed to preserve their beauty from being washed away, but most of the sheep had been more or less in the rain, and abundant apologies were made by their owners for their ill-looks. We had the curiosity to enquire the value of the sheep on exhibition. Two or three bucks had cost their owners \$1,000. That sum was offered for one ram on the ground and was refused. The owner saying that he could make more than that out of him in a single year. Another was held at \$2,000. Ordinary Merino lambs are held at from \$25 to \$50 each. A lot from Vermont brought for exhibition and sale are offered at the following prices:—1 pen of 5 ewes, \$200 each; 1 pen of 3 bucks, \$500 each; 1 pen of 4 bucks from \$200 to \$300 each. Another lot of 15, from Vermont are for sale at from \$400 to \$500. Many of these sheep are certainly remarkable for the fineness of their wool, and the manner in which they are fleeced all over—belly as well as back—and down to the very hoofs. Just now Merinos are slightly at a discount in Michigan. Mr. Edward Wallington of Saline, who has a large number of Leicester and Cotswold sheep at the fair, sold his wool this season at 70 cts. per pound, while Merino wool only fetched 50 cts. He sold 1,000 pounds to a single firm at that rate. His best ram sheared 20 lb. 3 oz., and his best ewe 11½ lbs. These lost by cleansing less than one-third, whilst the Merinos lose more than two-thirds. Mr. Wallington had some fine sheep on the ground, the best among them being a pair of Cotswolds, which he bought some time ago of Mr. George Miller of Markham, for \$175 in gold. Messrs. Fellows had