

scientific subjects. In the present case he hides his identity under "A Devonshire Dumpling." We hope some of our enterprising farmers will adopt the hint he gives them, and add Seald Cream to the list of city luxuries.

Our readers will perceive that the Yarmouth County Agricultural Society have determined to hold an Exhibition on 6th October. The premiums, amounting to \$500, are thrown open for competition to the whole Province. Copies of the Prize List may be obtained on application to the Secretary, C. E. Brown, Esq., Yarmouth.

There is likewise to be held an Exhibition at Truro, the prizes of which are open to the whole Province. We hear that some of the King's County breeders think of paying Truro a visit on the occasion. Nothing does so much good in these matters as a little healthful rivalry, and, now that we have convenient railway communication, these open competitions should bring competitors together from all parts of the Province. We have now in the Province thorough-bred stock that no man need be ashamed of, and it will do the animals and the public good to have an airing once a year.

IMPORTATION OF WHITE CHESTER PIGS.

The Yarmouth County Society has imported from Chester County, Pennsylvania, via Boston, two fine Chester White Sows in pig, and one Boar of the same breed. They are all thorough-bred animals, and were purchased from George Hickman, Esq., West Chester, Pa. They cost, at place of shipment, \$150, or with charges till ready for sale with their litters, at Yarmouth, they will have cost \$250. The Secretary of the Society observes: "If they have an average litter each, we shall not lose any money on them." The gain to the farmers of the County will be very considerable.

CULTURE AND PREPARATION OF HEMP.

From the Albany "Cultivator," March, 1851.

(Continued.)

MODES OF PREPARATION.

Hemp is rotted for the brake in three several methods, called dew-rotting, water-rotting, and snow or white-rotting. The first method is that by which far the greater portion of American hemp is made ready for market. The crop being

harvested in August and September, remains in stack until the hot sun of October gives way to a milder spring-like temperature. It is then spread, generally upon the field on which it grew, until the fluids in the circulation and the camboise matter which binds the fibres together decompose, when the fibres contract and burst off the stalk. Then the plants are gathered and set up in small shooks over the field, where it will remain two or three months without injury, during which period, say from January to April, the breaking is performed by active laborers. One great reason why this mode of preparing hemp is so popular with the American cultivator, is, that it affords comfortable and profitable employment for winter. Seventy-five to one hundred pounds is deemed a moderate day's work. Using the hemp brake brings all the muscles into active exercise, and a man will prepare 100 pounds of hemp without inconvenience from cold, at a temperature too disagreeable to be abroad at other farm work.

The second method, or water-rotting, is a much more tedious and expensive mode of preparation: but after having had several years' experience, and after having been most intimately acquainted with the details of two establishments beside my own, I do not hesitate to say that it is entirely practicable to water-rot in this country with success, and will say further that if precautionary means be adopted in the plan of operations, there is but little risk of health. My own pool, which answered remarkably well, is one hundred and ten by thirty feet surface, and four feet deep, excavated near a small stream. The lower wall is water-tight—the balance a round stone wall, capped with timber, anchored down by the weight of the wall—a middle timber anchored to the bottom, as high as the plates or the wall, divided the pool into two sections, fifteen feet wide, so that cross timbers, 16 feet long, prevented the hemp from rising above the caps or plates when the pool was filled and the water let in. Such a pool will contain the produce of about four acres. Water was conducted into this pool over the top of the wall, and let off by pipes at the bottom. The pool being accessible on all sides by an easy grade, three teams with light sleds would empty it in half a day, the water being previously let off, and the bundles allowed several hours to drain before being handled. Two men grasping the same bundle, raise it, and by a swing of the arm horizontally, throw it end-wise upon the sled upon which the bundles are removed, and in frosty weather placed, still bound, against ranges of poles, to dry; or, the weather being warm, are spread upon grass lands for the same purpose. Operating in this way for three or four successful seasons, and requiring

the operators to change their damp clothes immediately after emptying the pool, no case of sickness ever occurred in a family of between forty and fifty persons, that was supposed to owe its origin to any of the details of the process of water-rotting hemp.

When the medullary exudations, uniting the fibres of the hemp plant, have been extracted by immersion, the bark is detached from the woody part of the plant, and contracts so as to burst and show the wood, sometimes throughout the whole length of the stalk. In this stage, being removed from the pool and dried, it is ready for the break. Among the many machines for separating the wood from the lint, I think the best yet seen in Kentucky consists of a crusher composed of several consecutive pairs of fluted rollers, driven by steam or animal power, using the hand brake, and using in addition no scutching apparatus other than a small iron knife, and even with these aids a good operator will be unable to prepare more than 50 to 60 pounds per day. The only way, it appears to me, in which the process of water-rotting hemp can be made to work itself into favor, and become a regular employment with the hemp grower, will be for the consumer to tempt him into the practice by paying for a time in this market the prices which rule in the Atlantic cities. Receiving thus a bonus of some forty dollars, and a certain market, many would be induced to enter upon the business, and practice would, no doubt, by familiarising the producer with the details of preparation, and by suggesting improvements, so far cheapen the cost of production as to overcome, in a great degree, the reluctance the hemp farmer now manifests for this mode of preparation.

There are two classes of persons who should abstain from water-rotting hemp,—those sanguine ones who think to increase greatly their income by operating in this high priced article, and those who cultivate to any extent, winter grains and other mixed stocks, requiring much labor in spring. The first class of persons, if experienced in the dew-rotting process, will find in this case, as in most others, that it is labor which imparts value to the products of agriculture, and that they gain nothing by doubling the price of a staple when they cannot produce half the quantity. The mixed farmer, too, will find fall and spring the only favorable period for immersing his plants—times when the sowing and planting of his crops so far engross his time and labour as to render very inconvenient the filling and emptying of his pools.

White-rotting.—In practice, the details of this process vary but slightly from those of dew-rotting. Hemp intended to be prepared in this way, is permitted one entire year in the stack, and is after-