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RURAL NOTES.

Try for tat will not answer for a kicking cow. "Be gentle with the erring."

"BILLY GLADSTONE" is a high-toned goat owned by the present Duke of Wellington.

A REPORTER for an agricultural paper, in giving a brief description of a country fair at which horse-racing was a special attraction, says:—"The fair consisted of a few big pumpkins, some venerable bed-quilts strung on a line, and bully horse-trots."

A MANURE spreader has been invented which pulverizes the manure, and scatters it at the rate of a given number of loads per acre; doing the work far more evenly than it can possibly be performed by hand. It is a great labour-saver, as it both unloads and spreads at one and the same operation.

ANOTHER sale of Jersey cattle has been held; and again the prices paid are unprecedented. A bull, "Farmer's Glory," brought \$3,500; a cow \$2,500, and another cow \$1,400. As the *Rural New Yorker* observes, "There is no objection whatever to this kind of business, any more than to a rich man paying his thousands for a diamond or a picture. But it is not agriculture; only playing at it."

THE *Country Gentleman*, undoubtedly the best of the agricultural weeklies, makes its appearance this year of grace 1882, enlarged from 16 to 20 pages, beautifully printed, and stored, as usual, with a miscellany of useful reading matter. Too many farmers think this journal so costly a luxury that they cannot afford it. But it may be safely affirmed that the poorest among them would find the outlay a profitable investment.

A BUREAU of Statistics is about to be established by the Ontario Government. The scheme will be a comprehensive one, taking in statistics of the products of the soil, forest and mine; shipments of cattle; dairy products; entomological research; epidemics among farm stock; injury to grain by weather, insects, &c. The information collected is to be embodied in monthly reports. A Bill constituting the Bureau will be introduced during the present Session of the Legislature. This is a move in the right direction.

THE muley fever which has now set in prompts an English journal to suggest "breeding off" the horns of native stock. It is thought this may be done by searing the horns of young calves. No doubt, by persistent repression, horns can be got rid of. A breed of dogs has been produced, lacking tails. A family of Ayrshires, in Scotland, long

marked by clipping off the ends of the ears, came to have calves in which the end of the ear was wanting. Any peculiarity will become fixed in time. A hornless bull will usually have a hornless progeny when bred to cows having horns.

It behoves our farmers to be on their guard of travelling tricksters. A great fraud was committed at the expense of farmers in Kamouraska County last fall by a well-dressed sharper, who, under the assumed profession of grain dealer, went from farm to farm to purchase oats at 50c. per bushel, to be delivered in January. Contracts were signed in duplicate, and it appears that the duplicates in the purchaser's hand were nothing else than promissory notes, which had been transferred to other parties in Montreal, who want immediate payment. It appears that over eighty car-loads of oats were ready for shipment. The farmers of St. Anne, Rivière Ouelle, St. Denis and Kamouraska have been the most imposed upon. Those having sold, for instance, 400 bushels of oats, have signed notes for \$200.

THE possibilities of agricultural life on the continent of America would seem to be far in advance of those in England. In the course of Senator Hoar's eloquent eulogy on the late lamented President Garfield, delivered at Worcester, Mass., on the 30th ult., the orator mentioned a fact which speaks volumes on this point. He stated that Garfield had said, in 1878, that he had, not long since, conversed with an English General, who had told him that, in 25 years of careful study of the agricultural class in England, he had never known one who was born and bred in the ranks of farm labourers that rose above his class and became a well-to-do citizen. The example of the late President Garfield, and of many others, proves that hard labour and poverty often pave the road to greatness in the New World.

CANADIAN cattle-feeders must go in for first-class stock if they would hold a commanding place in the British market. Mr. Speaker Brand, who is a keen agriculturist, recently made a speech at the Fat Stock Show Dinner at Lewes, near which his family estate is located, in the course of which he expressed the opinion that British farmers need not fear the competition of the New World, because "American stock is inferior to the stock produced in this country." The only reason why this need be the case is the supineness of the farmers of this continent. Here, in Canada, we have as pure-blooded animals as they have in England, and it has been proved that they do not retrograde, but improve in the Western World. The probability is, that the demand of the British market for the best will do more for the improvement of our stock than any other influence that

has yet been brought to bear upon our herds and breeders of cattle.

THE opinion seems to be very generally entertained that the Provincial Exhibition should go to Kingston next year. It was the only place that sent an invitation, backed up by deputies and guarantees, to the Annual Meeting of the Association. The rejection of Kingston, which did want the Exhibition, in favour of Toronto, which did not want it, was at once a mistake and an act of discourtesy. There is, perhaps, no spot in the Province where the Exhibition is likely to do more good as an agricultural educator than at Kingston, which is a very cogent argument in favour of this arrangement. The question of money-making is a secondary one. The Exhibition should be run for usefulness, not for pecuniary profit. This has been its chief recommendation in the past, and must be its main claim to public support in the future. A number of years have elapsed since Kingston had a visit from the Exhibition, and the people of that region have paid their quota towards the public grant. It is but fair they should have their turn. Whether the Association shall hold an Exhibition in each and every year is a question that should be laid on the table until Kingston has had it once more.

THE Pocklington grape is winning its way to public favour. Among other testimonies in its behalf, we have that of the editor of the *Farmer's Advocate*. He confesses to having been at first strongly against it. One cause of his prejudice was an opinion unwarrantably expressed by a member of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, who "pronounced it a humbug, and said it was a hard, poor grape, fit for bullets." It is strange that men whose official position demands of them the encouragement of new and promising fruits, will speak in such terms of a candidate for public patronage, of which they are totally ignorant. Messrs. Morris, Stone and Wellington, of the Fonthill Nurseries, sent the editor of the *Advocate* a bunch of the Pocklington. To his astonishment he found it the largest and finest-looking white out-door grape he had ever seen grown in this country. On tasting it, he found the flavour excellent, though not quite equal to his "little favourite, the Delaware." On showing it to the largest importer of foreign grapes in the city of London, Ont., Mr. H. Mountjoy, that gentleman declared it a highly saleable grape, and thought it would readily bring 15 cents per pound, which is about double the price of any other out-door grape raised in this Province. The Pocklington has captured every one who has ever seen and tasted a ripe bunch, and may justly claim to be at least put "on trial" by the Fruit Growers' Association, before being condemned by the body at large, or by any member of it.