

Caleb's Courtship.

(E. T. Corbett, in Harper's Magazine.)
 I hadn't no time for courtin' when I was young an' spry,
 For what with workin' an' savin' I let the years go by;
 Then I was buyin' an' buildin'—and farm work never gets done—
 Till at last I counted my birthdays, and found I was fifty-one.
 "High time," sez I, "to be choosin' a suitable pardner for life."
 So I just set down and considered where I'd better look for a wife,
 I wanted her young an' handsome, of course, an' stiddy an' neat,
 Smart at bakin' an' churnin', quick with her hands an' feet,
 But slow with her tongue (for talkin' just wastes a woman's time)—
 An' as savin' with every penny as ef 'twas a silver dime;
 An' ef she was good at mendin' an' scrubbin' an' cleanin' house,
 I made up my mind to take her ef she was as poor as a mouse.
 Waal, it cost some time an' trouble to diskiver a gal to my mind—
 There was lots of 'em to choose from, but the best was hard to find.
 At last, after lookin' an' thinkin', I settled on Eunice Steut,
 The deacon's youngest darter—nineteen or thereabout,
 Pretty—yes, as a picter; made the best butter, too,
 That ever was sent to market. Sez I, "I guess she'll do."
 Whenever I stopped to the deacon's, she's as busy as a bee—
 Allus a-workin' an' doin'—yes! that's the wife for me!
 But now that I'd done my choosin' sez I to myself, "what next?"
 I didn't know much about winnin', an' I'll own I was some perplexed;
 So I asked advice of a neighbor—that was the biggest mistake—
 Things mightn't have gone so crooked if I'd never said nothin' to Jake;
 But he was twenty year younger, an' the gals all liked him, ye see—
 So I asked his advice about Eunice—just like a fool as I be.
 Sez he, "Why, man, it is easy, you must take her out to ride;
 You must bring her home from meetin', an' stick close to her beside;
 You must go to see her evenin's; you must buy her some pretty things—
 A book or a breastpin, mebbe, some ribbons or some rings;
 Then tell her her cheeks is rosy, tell her her eyes is bright;
 Tell her you love her dearly, an' dream of her at night;
 Tell her—but here I stopped him. "It's easy talkin'," sez I,
 "But I never did no courtin' an' I'm half afraid to try—
 I'll make ye an' offer, Jacob; if you'll go with me to-night,
 To kinder keep up my courage, an' see that things go right,
 Tackle the deacon, mebbe, an' show me how to begin,
 I'll give ye a yearling calf—I will as sure as sin is sin."
 Waal, the bargain was struck. Me an' Jacob went to see Eunice together.
 Jake, he talked to the deacon 'bout crops an' cattle an' weather;
 Eunice she kep' very quiet—jest sot an' knitted away,
 An' I sot close beside her—a thinkin' of somethin' to say.
 Many an' evenin' I noticed, when she went for apples an' cake,
 Inter the pantry, 'twas allus, "Come hold the candle, Jake."
 As ef she counted him nobody; then she'd give me a smile
 Soon's I offered to help her, an' say 'twarn't worth my while.
 I'll own 'twas quite surprisin' how long they'd hev ter stay
 A pickin' out them apples, but Jake told me one day,
 They was tryin' to find the best ones, so's she could give them to me;
 An' surely that was flatterin', as any one could see!
 Once I bought her a ribbon—Jake said it oughter be blue.
 But a brown one's far more lastin', an' this one was cheaper, too;

An' once I took her out ridin', but that wasted half a day,
 An' I made up my mind that walkin' was pleasanter anyway.
 Waal, I'd been six months a-courtin' when I sez to Jake, sez I:
 "It's time that we was married; here's Thanksgivin' drawing nigh—
 A first-rate day for a weddin'; an' besides, to say the least,
 I can make the Thanksgivin' turkey do for part of the weddin' feast."
 So that night I mustered courage to the very stickin' pint,
 (You wouldn't never mistrusted that I shook in every jint).
 We was comin' along from meetin'. Sez I, "I'd like you now to say
 That you hain't no objection, Eunice, to be married Thanksgivin' day."
 She looked at me smilin' an' blushin' as red as a rose an' as sweet,
 I scursly knew for a minnet ef I stood on my head or my feet;
 Then "I hev'n't the least objection," sez she, as I opened the gate;
 But she didn't ask me to stop, she sez only, "it's gittin' rather late."
 I looked all round for Jacob, but he'd kinder slipped out of sight;
 So I figured the cost of a weddin' as I went along home that night.
 Waal, I got my house all ready, an' spoke to the parson beside,
 An' early Thanksgivin' mornin' I started to hev the knot tied.
 But before I came to the deacon's—I was walkin' along quite spry,
 All rigged in my Sunday best, of course—a sleigh comes dashin' by;
 That was Jacob a-drivin', an Eunice sot at his side;
 An' he stops an sez, "Allow me to introduce my bride."
 So that was the end of my courtship.
 You see I started wrong,
 Askin' advice of Jacob, an' takin' him along;
 For a team may be better fer ploughin', an' hayin' an' all the rest,
 But when it comes to courtin', why, a single hoss is best!

WHERE IT WAS DONE.

Joe Bing, he cut ten cord o' wood
 From rise to set o' sun;
 He cut it, an' he piled it, too,
 Yes, sir, that's w'at he done.
 To cut ten cord of wood, I vow,
 Is one tremenjous chore—
 Joe Bing cut his behind the stove
 In Luscomb's grocery store.
 Joe Bing, he cut eight load o' hay,
 I swan, an' raked it, too,
 An' in twelve hours by the clock
 He was entirely through.
 He could, I guess, before he slept
 Cut jes' as many more—
 He cut it where he did the wood,
 In Luscomb's grocery store.
 Joe Bing, he plowed four acres onct,
 He plowed it good an' neat;
 An' 'fore the sun had near gone down
 The job was all complete.
 The hosses never turned a hair,
 Wasn't tired, ner leas bit sore.
 He plowed it all in one short day—
 In Luscomb's grocery store.
 Joe Bing, he made five dollars onct
 By simply pickin' hops;
 He done it all in jest a day
 With time for sev'ral stops.
 He could as well a-kept it up
 A dozen days or more.
 Where was it done? The same ol' place—
 In Luscomb's grocery store.
 —Woman's Home Companion.

A Lancashire lawyer tells the following story concerning a client, something of a wag in his way, with whom he had long kept an account. When the latter was finally made up, the bill, mostly for trifling services, covered several pages of foolscap, as the items enumerated the most trifling details. When the client called to settle, he refused to enter the office, but stood in the doorway, holding one end of the voluminous document in the direction of his legal adviser, with the request that he would take the money and receipt it. "Come in," said the lawyer, most cordially. "Not quite," replied the client; "I know a thing or two now. You'd charge me rent if I did."—[Ex.]

GOSSIP.

Mr. H. M. Vanderlip, Cainsville, Ont., writes: "I have sold to Mr. H. Smith, Exeter, the young Shorthorn bull, Prince of Stars, recently advertised in 'The Farmer's Advocate'; thanks to that medium."

SEED FAIRS, STALLION AND BULL SHOWS.

Following is a list of the spring stallion and bull shows and seed fairs to date, arranged by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Any additional information desired may be obtained from the Supt. of Agricultural Societies, J. Lockie Wilson, Parliament Buildings, Toronto:
 Spring seed meetings.—Frankford, April 3; Kilsyth, March 21; Blyth, April 2; Walkerton, April 3; Elora, April 9; Mt. Forest, April 10; Moorefield, April 12; Sundridge, April 18; Creemore, April 23; Brucefield, April 26; Caledonia, April 11.
 [Note.—Several meetings fixed on dates before the present issue of 'The Farmer's Advocate' are omitted from above list.—Editor.]
 Spring stallion and bull shows.—Frankford, April 3; Renfrew, April 23; Perth, May 7; Blyth, April 2; Milverton, April 3; Moorefield, April 12; Tara, April 16; Listowel, April 17; Kenilworth, April 18; Owen Sound, April 24; Clarksburg, April 26; Barrie, April 11; Sundridge, April 18; Comber, April 19; Simcoe, April 20; Chatham, April 27th.

CEDARDALE SHORTHORNS.

Few men in public life in Canada today are better known than Dr. T. S. Sproule, M. P., of Markdale, Ont. When away from his public and professional duties, his whole attention is given to his splendid stock farm, Cedarvale, situated in the outskirts of the village of Markdale, on which he has a grand herd of about 36 head of Scotch and Scotch-topped Shorthorn cattle, the former belonging to the well and fashionably-known Mayflower and Flora strains; the Scotch-topped all tracing to that grand old cow, Beauty (imp.), by Snowball, a cow that has probably more prize- and dairy-test winners whose Canadian origin traces to her than any other one cow that ever crossed the ocean. As an evidence of the heavy-milking qualities of the cows of this herd, one has only to look at the plump, sleek, good-doing youngsters that have not yet been weaned, and as proof of the entire satisfaction experienced by purchasers of hard-headers from this herd during the last year, we may refer the reader to the following reliable Canadian breeders: A. Brodeur, M. P., Morrisburg; A. Latchford, Bracebridge; W. Pullen, Sweaburg; J. Williams, Ceylon, Ont., and John Manarey, Rockland, Ont., who have purchased stock from this herd, which have developed into grand good animals, and the Doctor had many more applications for bulls, but could not supply them. The present stock bull is Royal Standard 2nd =60922=, a Mayflower-bred bull, by Royal Standard =27134=, a Miss Ramsden, dam Tribly, by Lord George, a Merry Maiden, and a son of Imp. General Booth. He is a red three-year-old, of the thick-fleshed, even, mellow kind, and a sire of grand, good, thick calves. For sale in young bulls is one red one, ten months old, out of the same dam, Tribly, sired by Forester =30643=, a son of Choice Royal (imp.). Another is a nine-months-old red-roan, by the stock bull, and out of Markdale Lady 2nd, a cow that is a very heavy and persistent milker. Another is a seven-months-old red, by the stock bull, and out of Ida of Brookdale, a Flora-bred cow. Still another is a seven-months-old red, by the same sire, and out of Lady Marlboro, another noted milker. Here are a quartette of young bulls that have not only excellent individuality, but are straight dairy bred, three of them, the other being Scotch bred. These are for sale at reasonable prices for a quick take. There are also for sale ten heifers, from ten months to two years of age, the get of the stock bull and Cedarvale Chief, a lot of heifers that cannot fail to do good in any hands that will give them decent care, and they can be bought at very reasonable prices. Parties wanting dairy-bred Shorthorns should look after this lot quickly, as they will soon go, as the demand for dual-purpose Shorthorns is certainly on the increase.

The Bruce Agricultural Works, Teeswater, Ont., manufacture a variety of farm implements, including plows, harrows, seeders, wagons, buggies, etc., also school seats. Parties interested should look up their advertisement in this paper, and correspond with them for prices, etc.

At the auction sale held by Mr. J. C. Ross, of Jarvis, Ont., on March 7th, the Clydesdales sold for good prices, as is shown by the following list: Jessie Clayfield, 5 years, to N. Montague, Jarvis, \$295; Blossom, 4 years, Ed. Kelly, Walpole, \$301; The Bonnie Lass, 9 years, to John Henning, Jarvis, \$275; Lady Clayfield, 1 year, to Levi Sharp, Springvale, \$247; Clayfield Lass, 10 years, Charles Paling, Caledonia, \$205; Queen Bess, 8 years, to Robt. T. Docker, Dunnville, \$100; Prince Alexander, 2 years, to Robt. Docker, \$370.
 Of the sheep advertised, only ten Cots-wold ewes were sold, the prices averaging \$15.30 each.

Mr. H. J. Davis, Woodstock, Ont., writes: "Notwithstanding the large number of public sales that have been held, the inquiry for Shorthorns is fairly well up to average years. I have at present five very smooth, even, imported and Canadian-bred bulls of the best Scotch breeding that will be sold at reasonable prices. Have recently sold to Mr. J. G. Carter, Greenock, Ont., a very promising heifer, Diamond Bracelet, by Bapton Chancellor (imp.), and in calf to Queen's Counsellor (imp.), a grandson of Brave Archer. For the last seventeen years in which I have been engaged in breeding Yorkshires, the past year's sales have eclipsed all others. Among some excellent young sows recently shipped was one imported sow, bred by the Earl of Rosebery, to Mr. James Shurrie, Brussels, Ont., who is founding a select herd of Yorkshires, and has secured an excellent specimen of the breed for a start. Mr. A. W. Harwood, of Hickson, recently purchased a trio of excellent pigs, consisting of two in-pig imported sows, bred by the Earl of Rosebery, and a young boar, from the show sow, Broomhouse Lally. Have some good young sows in pig left, and a number of choice boars, also an excellent lot of young pigs, from good, large, imported sows and boars."

MYRTLE SALE OF PURE-BRED STOCK.

As announced in last week's issue, at Myrtle (C. P. R.) Station, on Friday, March 29th, the Myrtle Sales Association will hold their second bi-annual sale of pure-bred stock, including 15 Shorthorn bulls, 15 Shorthorn heifers, 15 Yorkshire sows, 5 Yorkshire boars, several imported and Canadian-bred Clydesdale mares and fillies, and a few Clydesdale stallions, Canadian-bred. The Shorthorn bulls to be sold are from ten months to two years of age; the females from one to four years. Among them are some extra choice show-ring stuff, and there are no culls. All are in good condition. Part of them are straight Scotch bred, the balance Scotch-topped, founded on some of the most noted English milking strains, notably those grand old strains that have produced so many winners at the leading shows, the Beautys and Lavinias. Among the straight Scotch-bred ones are representatives of the following fashionable families: Crimson Flowers, Wedding Gifts, Miss Ramsdens, Meadow-flowers, Stamfords, etc.; the sale making a very rare opportunity for the selection and purchase of either the beef type or the milking type. Former sales held by this Association have proved that the class of animals offered have been of a type and breeding that are in demand, and this is certainly a better lot than have ever before been offered at a sale of this kind, and will not disappoint visitors coming with the idea of purchase. The Clydesdales to be offered are also a high-class lot—young, sound and right in every particular; so, also, are the Yorkshires. In case of bad weather, the sale will be held under cover. The terms are: Cash, or six months' on bankable paper, with six per cent. per annum. Single return fares will be given on both the C. P. R. and G. T. R., also half fare on the shipment of animals bought at this sale. There is good hotel accommodation at the C. P. R. station. For any special information, write to Mr. Smith, Columbus, President; John Bright, Myrtle Station, Treasurer, or A. Quinn, Myrtle, Secretary.