

cult to say how much a pack costs to keep up. There are many expenses that do not appear necessary to one who is not among those that manage "Countries," as the districts appropriated by each pack are called, but Lord Bathurst, who ought to know, estimates that the yearly expense of keeping fox-hounds and hunting County is about \$3,850 for each day they hunt in the week; by this is meant that an ordinary pack of fox-hounds, not in "the Shires," but in a Country district, hunting three days a week, would cost about \$11,650.00.

Hounds are fed on old oatmeal, which averages about \$80.00 a ton, and soup made from worn out-horses, or cattle that have died a natural death. The duke of Beaufort's hounds, that hunt the Badminton country, devour, for each couple, \$40.00 worth of these two articles a year? Then come various other items; damage to fences, etc.; fowls killed by foxes; horses for the Master; the servants' wages. Huntsmen, Whips, Kennel-Huntsmen, etc., besides a very moderate average of ten horses to each pack. Again, comes the saddler's bill, earthstopping, "nomen illis legio"; there is no end to the charges to be borne, and when it comes to packs like that of the late Lord Henry Bentinck, who hunted the Whittlebury, Notts country in our day, six days a week, the cost is recarilly enormous. And who profits by all this outlay; do you ask? The reply is simple; the tradesmen and the farmers; the farmer, as the saddler, the miller, the veterinary" (though he is hardly a tradesman), blacksmith, would be at a sad loss in the country towns and villages without the hounds and their adjuncts, the latter would miss the extra price he has long been used to receive for his old oats, beans, and hay, both clover and meadow. Taken together, we may fairly say that the capital invested in the sport is not far from \$50,000,000.00, and the cost of following it, to masters, subscriber, and private individuals, puts into circulation at least \$25,000,000.00 a year.

"Lincolns."—Great prices have been paid of late for Lincoln Rams for the Australian Colonies and, we believe, for South America. We give in the present number a characteristic portrait of the three Lincoln Wethers, that won the first prize for the best Long-Wools at the Smithfield Club Show of 1900.

"Candlemas-Day."—Old sayings about weather are always worthy of attention, there is always something in them, more or less the product of long and astute observation. At the same time, we must be careful to interpret the sayings correctly, which is not always done. For instance, the contributor of many useful articles to one of the Montreal Daily Papers quotes the old saying,

"If Candlemas-day be clear and fair
"Half the winter's to come and mair."

Without due consideration, for the lines by no means refer to our present second of February, but to candlemas-day old style, which answers to our present 14th of February, but to Candlemas-day old style, as regards the other old weather prognostics, such as,

"The hind had as lief see his wife on her bier
"As that Candlemas-day should be fair and clear."

In which the word "lief" is from German "Lieb," loved, old English "leaf."

The anglers favourite fly the "green-drake," is commonly called "the May-Fly," though it is rarely seen, even in Southern-most England, till June 4th new-style, equivalent to May 23rd, old-style, et sic de ceteris.

"The wheat-crop of 1900 in England."—Sir J. H. Gilbert has issued a report on the wheat crops grown on the Rothamsted experiment farm in 1900, all, of course, sown in the autumn of 8899.

The winter was a very wet one; the summer following very dry; the harvest very wet. On the plot sown contineously