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LONDON, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1881.

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NO. 2.

ADVOCATE THE FARMER'S

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Editor and Proprietor ---FOUNDED 1866.-

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Prize Essay.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on the following questions: "On what soils have superphosphates and ground bone been found most profitable; what quantities should be used per acre; what are the best methods of applying to the soil; will the use of these manures be profitable to Canadian farmers?"

Essay to be in our office by the 20th of March. We will extend the time for the essay on the questions on the Model Farm to the 20th of Feb'y.

In the British House of Commons Mr. Chaplin gave notice that he would move, on the 22nd Feb., to prohibit the importation of cattle from countries where disease is known to exist, as their slaughter on lauding has proved insufficient to arrest the spread of the disease. We cannot call the attention of the Government too importunately to this subject, as it is, in our opinion, of more importance to the farmers of Canada than the Railway Syndicate, Protection or any other subect that has agitated the country for years. It is absolutely necessary that we should look closely after our own interests in this matter. It must be constantly borne in mind, at this crisis that the free access of Canadian cattle to the British markets is of vital impartance to the country at large. Every effort should be made to prevent our country from even suspicion of being infected with the disease, which can only be done by seeing to it that American [meat is not placed on the European market as Canadian.

To Subscribers.

We return most sincere thanks to our readers for their continued patronage and for the numerous new subscriptions sent in by our friends. December and January are the most important months to us, as the majority of renewals come in during these months. We never have had so many highly satisfactory letters as during the past two months. Not only is this the case from complimentary remarks, which are always cheering and pleasing, but from the very small proportion of refusals and the very large number of renewals and new subscribers. We have reason to thank our subscribers when we say the receipts have never been equalled since we commenced the publication of the ADVOCATE.

What has been contained in the ADVOCATE for the past fifteen years has been free, unbiassed thought. Freedom and right must eventually disperse darkness and deception. We must have the coming men among our readers, as our readers are undeniably the independent thinkers, and they must prefer light and light must conquer darkness. There are only very few real independent minds. Nearly all the inhabitants of the world are merely copyists or followers; they take up some other person's words and opinions, and act and speak as if they were their own ideas. No doubt we have some of that class, but we have no hesitation in saying that our readers are the most free to think and act, and they must be the leaders in their localities, perhaps on this continent. They may have to labor as we have done, but time and patience will conquer with such a class of readers; and knowing that every line and every word is scrutinized by so many, we feel that we need greater discernment as subjects of greater magnitude present themselves. We must ask of you, the independent in Canada, to give us your aid to strengthen us where weak and correct where you think we may be wrong.

WE do not hold ourselves responsible for all the ideas expressed by our correspondents. Should any of our readers believe any eorrespondence erroneous, we particularly wish he or they would write and correct the mistake without delay, for time obliterates circumstances

Chip dirt, drift hay from the edges of the marshes, and all refuse matter that can be collected about a farm, if not used in the compost heap, makes an excellent mulch for orchards. Mulching, says a writer, has all the benefits of ploughing, with none of its disadvantages, keeping the surface mellow with no damage to the roots by the plough or to the trunk or branches by the team. It keeps down the grass and invites the earthworm to work and make the soil fine and rich. It tends to retain the moisture for a much longer time, and remedy in a great measure the evil effects of drought. The fruit which falls upon it is not bruised. It is the way nature adopts to manure and enrich the forest trees.

(Supplement to the Essay on "Fall and Winter Management of Colts.")

Handling Colts.

It is seldom necessary to handle foals till weaning time, but as some foals are very timid, it is well to get familiar with them, and particular care should be taken not to frighten them unnecessari-They should be approached gently, and allowed to smell the hand before making any attempt to handle them. Coax them with a dainty bunch of clover or green oats, or some tempting kind of food. If they refuse to take it from you, never throw it at them, but lay it down on the ground where they can find it. They will observe your motions, and soon learn that you intend to be on friendly terms with them. Thus you will soon be able to stroke them first on the nose, then on the neck, and so forth. It is not well to slap them about the hind quarters till you are on quite familiar terms with them.

When first confined to their loose box after weaning is the proper time to cultivate their acquaintance in earnest (being weaned from their dam, they naturally turn to man as their best friend. Alas! how often are they deceived); here you have them more under your control, and now is the proper time to show them that you are really their friend. Whenever you go in take advantage of the occasion to give them something from the hand, a little salt, a handful of oats, an apple; or potato or carrot, or something to tempt the appetite until you have attained a sufficient hold on their friendship, and do not wish to cultivate a closer acquaintance. Colts sometimes become troublesome by being too much petted. It is then only necessary to check them by gentle correction and less familiarity. You having gained their good will, it rests with yourself how much of it you will have.

Having arrived at a proper understanding, avoid playing with them or learning them tricks, such as nipping or kicking, as it may cause trouble to break them of it afterwards. They should be lightly rubbed down occasionally with a wisp of straw or a soft brush, commencing at the neck, then down the back and sides, then the fore legs may be rubbed, and afterwards the hind legs, if the colt is gentle; if not, do not be in too great a hurry to go all over at one time, rub the fore legs and gradually work back till he becomes accustomed to it. Then take up one fore leg and handle the foot. Another time try the opposite leg, being careful not to irritate or frighten the colt by so doing. Stroke them down after each handling, and always leave them in good temper.

This treatment practised once or twice a week at first and occasionally afterwards is all that is necessary the first winter. T. H., Meaford.