

# THE ONTARIO FARMER,

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

Agriculture, Horticulture, Country Life, Emigration, and the Mechanic Arts.

VOL. III.

HAMILTON, FEBRUARY, 1871.

No. 1.

## The Farm.

### HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

Re-read and practice yet more faithfully the suggestions under this head in last number. Prosecute with unremitting diligence the labour of winter. Prepare in every possible way for the coming season of hard work and hurry. Continue the care of domestic animals. Whether they are to yield milk or perform labour during the coming season, their value will greatly depend on the winter care they get. The well-being of stock must be a constant study, and unceasing object if they are to be profitable. Diligence only can be successful. Neglect will certainly bring loss. Keep animals warm. Not shelter merely, but comfortable quarters are needed. See that they are kept clean. Give them food, wholesome food, and plenty of pure water. Avoid waste. Economize by chaffing coarse fodder, and by having grain chopped or ground. Mix and change their food. Every farmer should lay in a stock of ice. This is the month to do it. Don't say I have no ice-house, but go to work and make one. The roughest kind of a board shanty, built in a level place right on the top of the snow will answer. Pile in the ice. Encase it in a foot of sawdust, or chaff. Provide ventilation above. Be thinking of seed-time and lay in a supply of seed of the very best quality. It is poor economy to sow inferior seed just because you happen to have it, or you can get it cheaply. It is also wretched management to have to be running round for seed, when ploughing and sowing are on hand. If you require to hire hands for spring work, look out for them early. Do not fail to chop and haul a plentiful supply of firewood. What is more annoying than to be obliged to go to the woods for fuel in the busiest season of the year. Get beforehand with work. Drive it, and see that it does not drive you.

### GOOD FARMING IN A NUTSHELL.

The far-famed Bakewell, of Dishley, Leicester England, the founder of the new Leicester sheep, and the man who lived a century before his day,

used to tell an anecdote with exceeding high glee of a farmer of the olden school and golden times. This farmer, who owned and occupied 1,000 acres of clay land, but poor in point of money, had three daughters looking their father very hard in the face for money. He went to Bakewell to know what to do for them. Bakewell told him to keep his money and give each daughter some land, and make it known that he would do so, and he would very soon lesson his family at home. He then made it known that he would give his eldest daughter 250 acres of land. It need hardly be added that the lady had forthwith plenty of beaux to choose from;—the father's house was haunted with young men, and she soon was married, and the father gave her the portion that he had promised, but no money; and he found by a little more speed and better management the produce of his farm increased. Three years after he made it know that he would give his second daughter 250 acres of land, which drew shoals of beaux, and she soon got married, and the father gave her a portion. He then set to work, and began to grub his furze and fern, and plowed up some of his poor furze land—nay, and where the furze covered in some cases nearly half the land. After giving half his land away to two of his daughters, he found the produce of his farm increased, because his newly broken up lands, brought him excessive crops. At the same time he farmed the whole of his land better, for he employed four times the labor upon it; had no more dead fallows the third year; instead of which he grew two green crops in one year, and ate them upon the land.

A garden, Bakewell told him, never required a dead fallow. He no more folded from a poor grass close to better the condition of a poor plowed one. But the great advantage was, that he had got the same money to manage 500 acres as he had to manage 1,000 acres. Three years after the second marriage, he made it known that he would give his third and last daughter 250 acres of land. She soon had a beau in readiness, and three or four more within call, and she was married within a week. She thought it never too soon to do well, and the father portioned her off with land.

He then began to ask himself a few questions,