

the benefit of what poor nutriment you have to give them. Mind you, you want to raise beef, and butter, and mutton, and wool, in place of sheep ticks and cattle lice. And I notice also that your sheep are covered with burrs, and between burrs and ticks I fear you will have little wool for market or for use in your family. Moreover, those sheep should be clipped behind about the 1st of March, so that they do not spoil a large amount of their small fleeces by scouring when they begin to gnaw the heart out of the grass in the spring, for of course you let them run all over your meadows as soon as the snow begins to disappear. You have to do this, I know, to keep them from starving. At the same time, I would remind you it is equal to mortgaging your hay crop at 20 per cent. Think of this, Mr. Slow, and before I leave you I would advise you to look after things yourself, and not leave all for the boys to do. Those pigs of yours look half starved, and you have twice too many of them these times. Remember there is no profit in pork raising in this country at present prices, and unless you have well bred and well fed hogs you will be a loser. Next year I would advise you to winter only one or two good sows, and be sure to send them to a good hog early in the season; then feed well and sell alive if you can early in the season. It is very bad management to try to fat hogs in cold weather, (hogs should be fat ready to kill the moment the cold weather sets in). And say, Mr. Slow, be sure and send those cows to a good bull next season. Mr. Sharp has a good Durham bull, a good pedigree animal; also a good Clydesdale horse; and Mr. Dollar has some good Cotswold rams and Berkshire pigs. Try and remember this at the proper time, and try and raise some better stock, and get rid of those scrubs as soon as possible; there is no profit in feeding such animals. Again, I notice your horses not looking any too well, and your harness looks as if it had not been cleaned since it was new, which is some time since. Better get it fixed up and cleaned before the spring work comes on; you won't have time then. And if your stable is very cold, a few battens over the cracks, and a blanket on your horse, is cheaper than hay and oats, even at present prices. These things all require your immediate attention, and you will perhaps be surprised to see the change for the better in a short time, and you will learn to take more interest in your cattle and stock than heretofore. Try and make the acquaintance of every animal about the place; take a currycomb or brush and rub them down once or twice a week; they like it, it makes them gentle, and you will ascertain the exact condition of every animal about the place; and when you have occasion to handle them for market, or any other purpose, it will save you much trouble and annoyance. And Mrs. Slow informs me that she never can get her hens to lay early like some people. She says that when eggs are a good price she never has any to sell. Fit up your hen house, make it warm and comfortable, and give your hens some meat scraps. You can call at the butcher's next time you go to town and get a beef liver or pluck, and get Mr. S. to boil it and chop it up: this and a little barley in cold weather will soon make your hens lay. Remember, one dozen of eggs now are worth twenty by and bye.

"Excuse me, Mr. Slow, for telling you all this, but I wish you well, and would gladly see your circumstances improve, and this prompts me to speak plainly; and while I am about it I may as well tell you that I have noticed for some years that your place has been running down; your fences are getting bad, and no effort is being made to renew them. Your land is very foul, and I

am sorry to see that you had neither fallow nor green crops last year, and very little pasture; two thirds of your land has been under wheat or barley for the last ten years, and still you find yourself getting poorer every year. No wonder! you make nothing but straw yard manure, which is not worth hauling to the rear end of your farm. Your grain is choked with thistles and foul weeds till you hardly know whether you have the greater bulk of thistles or straw, while your grain is nearly half hen feed. You require a change of seed. Get some good reliable kind, none of your Eldorado, but something you can depend on. Sow less straw grain, and seed down to clover every piece of land in rotation as fast as you can. Raise more peas and corn and roots; feed all you can afford to feed to your stock, but do not cram it all into your horses; remember working horses do not require to be fat to be strong, they only require to be kept in good health without any superfluous fat. Much wealth is lost by over-feeding farm horses, to the great detriment of the rest of the stock. I would also remind you, that if you could manage to provide a ton of bran at present prices, you will get it back twice over before the year is ended: 1st. In the increased product of your cows next summer. 2nd. In the increased yield of grain or grass where such manure is spread, to say nothing of the improved condition of the soil."

(To be Continued.)

#### The Month.

Get the old ship ready; see that every block is ready for running smooth, every sail in order, every rope taut; have her painted up and sails all prepared. Next month you may begin another annual voyage; be prepared for storms or fine weather. See that everything is now ready and convenient.

Feed your teams well; give all your stock lots of bedding this cold month. This saves feed; it keeps them warm and comfortable; the bedding saves the ammonia for your crops; if you have not plenty of bedding, buy some from old Slow Coach or Starve Farm; if not sufficient, get some sawdust from the mill, if convenient; give the hogs bedding enough to bury themselves in. Give some corn to the chickens to scratch in; take a drive to the best farmer's house within reach of you, and see if you could not change some seed with him; your change should be from clay to sandy soils, or the reverse. At the end of this month the boys might put up a hot-bed; the girls would be pleased to look after it, and have flowers and vegetables before their neighbors.

Look well after the lambs; they will be your most profitable crop this year; don't lose one; have a warm place to put the ewes in that are about to lamb. Should you get one chilled in a cold-snap, take it to the fire, rub it dry, give it a little warm milk with some whisky in—this has saved the life of many a lamb. Give the sheep a little grain, and the young stock also. This is the time to feed; it will pay better than selling grain, or money at interest. If you have your stock in right trim now, and you keep them right this month, we will risk your success for the season. If you go to a farmer's yard in February you can tell whether you can trust him or not. A farmer that has everything right in February can either borrow or lend money profitably. The farmer that has bags of bones in his yard now can neither borrow nor lend money profitably. Farming is now on a cash basis. The rule of thumb will answer no longer in Ontario.

#### Caution.

We have one complaint from London Township, and another from Exeter, in the County of Huron, that there are some smart agents travelling through both sections of the country, who have induced lots of farmers and farmers' wives to subscribe and pay cash for papers published across the lines. We hear that a large amount of money has been collected, and that the expected papers have not been received. They fear they have been defrauded, and we presume their fears are well founded.

Would it not be well if our Government were to raise part of its revenue by making travelling merchants pay a good sum as a license, equal to what the rent of a building in a city would be, and grant licenses only to those who are following a really legitimate and useful calling. There has been so much deception and fraud that many honest and too credulous farmers, and even citizens, have been injured by these unprincipled travellers, that we believe an act to check this class, and stop the roving population, would be of good service to the country. It would tend to reduce the tax now heavily borne by permanent settlers, and also throw business into its proper channel instead of being in this roving carpet-bag system under which it is now carried on.

What revenue do these travellers return to the public treasury? Do they not take the cream from permanent establishments? They should be made to bear part of the expenses of our country; whereas they are untaxable, unassessable, and sometimes unreliable. Farmers, what do you say?—Shall we take the class in some way, and try to have some of them stopped altogether? Of course there are some travelling agents who really do good, and a judicious discrimination should be shown, but all should bear part of the expense of our Government.

#### Notice.

Some few persons have formed the erroneous idea that we give prizes to subscribers. We only give the paper for \$1. Should we give presents we would be compelled to curtail the expenses on the paper, and that would not suit us—we wish to improve the paper in every possible manner. We give handsome presents to those who will take a little time and induce others to subscribe for it.

Our Dominion Picture we are now sending out to those who have earned it by sending us two new subscribers, or have paid one dollar for it. It has cost us many hundreds of dollars in getting up the design, etc. We first intended to have had it made in England, but the failure of a firm there prevented it, and a Canadian company agreed to get it up quite as well as we could have it done either there or in the U. S., but have not fulfilled their agreement as satisfactorily as we could wish. However, we may be fastidious. We quote the following remarks anent the first picture sent out, and the only one yet received:

"The picture is a very fine one, and reflects credit on all concerned in its production. It is expressly interesting to the juvenile members of my family. I intend to have it framed and present it to my daughter."  
T. H., Meaford."

We hope to see this Dominion Picture in nearly every subscriber's house. To show this picture properly frame it full size of paper in 2½-inch gilt frame.

Thomas Boak, of Milton, Ont., has sold his Shorthorn bull, Duke of Cumberland, to Henry Wood, of Stratford, for \$5,000. Duke of Cumberland won 15 1st prizes and 7 diplomas, besides medals, and the Centennial award of 1876 for the best bull of any class. An account of this bull appeared in our October No., 1877, which may have assisted the sale.