

THE MONTHLY

FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSISTENCE IS SUCCESS

Vol. 4] DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. [No. 3

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London, March, 1869.

Postage Prepaid.
Office—Talbot St., op. City Hotel.

POTATOES.

Periods of excitement are found in every interest. The Agricultural Community is not a speculative one, yet even its sober propriety is now and then disturbed by visionary ideas of sudden wealth. The "hen fever" with its fabulous prices, accelerated the pulse and reduced the pockets of the majority who were attacked. Shrewd men with an eye to gain, generally manage to keep constantly before the world, that they have the exclusive right to some article of great benefit to the farming interest which they are willing to freely give—provided they are well paid for it. The prevailing epidemic at the present time, is the potatoe fever. New names with recommendations of superior merit, are blazoned throughout the country. Potatoes are an important and profitable farm crop. Among the fortunate possessors of land near our large cities, it has been a most remunerative one. There is an awakened desire to cultivate those species that give the most prolific yield. Another object sought, is those that mature the earliest. This is a prime object by those who supply the City markets, but should not govern the majority of producers. Many new varieties are before the public, some of worth, and others worthless. We fully believe the declension in the value of the old varieties has been owing to improper management. When we desire to improve our stock, we select those animals that indicate the most promise. No sane man could reasonably anticipate a continual improvement, if he selected the feeble and maimed to breed from. Yet this has been the policy pursued by potatoe growers. On the score of cheapness, they have culled the large marketable potatoes, and reserved the refuse for seed. Eventually, this must succeed in depreciating the variety. Well prepared soil may disguise this fact for a time,

but its final result must be disastrous. This is proved from the fact that such seed matures later and later every year, and several varieties that were formerly known as early, are now hardly ripe before the frost kills the vines. By what rule do we select the earliest ripened specimens of other seeds for planting, and yet select the small and immature for potatoes? The fault is not in the old standard sorts, but in the false system of cultivation that has gradually deprived them of their vitality with different culture. We believe a marked improvement would be the result. The new varieties will degenerate under the same treatment.

FATTENING STOCK.

The use of fat in the animal economy, is its heat-making power. It is the combustible matter that preserves a proper temperature. Violent muscular exertion rapidly diminishes the store, while inaction increases it. The old theory, that animals do not possess the power of forming fat, has been falsified by the experiments of Milne Edwards and others; yet the fact is fully established, that the character of the food must determine the quantity of this element. Increase of weight does not always denote a proportionate increase of fat. It may be traced to development of muscle. Food abounding in albumen will increase muscular tissue, while the quantity of fat is scarcely affected. Guided by these principles, it is apparent that in the artificial fattening of animals, the conditions to be complied with are simple. An abundant supply of food containing oily material, is the first requisite, and little exercise to prevent undue consumption is the second. Muscular exertion increases the activity of respiration, and in the same ratio destroys fat. Stock should be well sheltered and a high temperature maintained, as this materially diminishes the

waste of fat. Cleanliness must not be forgotten. Pay strict attention to stalls and pens, for the full benefit of food cannot be secured while animals are obliged to inhale a noxious atmosphere. The limit of motion must be restricted, for freedom of action and rapid increase of fat are incompatible. Remove all cause of fright and be gentle in handling stock.

PLOUGHING.

An animated discussion at present is raging in the States, among the advocates of deep versus shallow ploughing. Leading Agricultural societies and journals, are devoting a great deal of time and space to the investigation. Truth is elicited by such discussions, but we fear one grand fact is lost sight of. The superiority of deep or shallow tillage is a question of locality and soil. Such a thing as absolute rules applicable to all sections, are impossible. From the formation of the soil the question must be decided, and it causes the practical farmer to smile, when he is assured that this or that principle is of universal application. Evils are so varied in their natures—in chemical ingredients—that it is the test of agricultural skill to apply the system adapted to develop its full strength, and to replace the elements consumed. The nature of the soil of adjoining fields may vary, and for the tiller of one to lay down stringent rules for the cultivation of the other, would savor of nonsense. Let farmers aim to understand the constituents of the soil they till, and they will be the best judges of the proper system of cultivation. Any man, or body of men, who attempt to establish one plan alone, must fail, for time and place will prove its fallacy.

WINTERING GREASE.—Cut up fine, Swede Turnips, they will keep fat on them. Give them grain one month before laying in Spring and a warm place. This is my plan. Try it.