

self need not, and we believe would not, be ashamed to sing.

Some of our subscribers object to our issuing in the middle of the month, and we confess that we sympathize to some extent with them. It was a matter of necessity rather than of choice in regard to our first number, and we therefore announced the 15th of the month instead of the 1st as the date of publication. We intend gradually to publish earlier in the month as the year draws to a close, so as to begin and continue with the first of the month when 1870 comes in.

We beg to call the attention of our subscribers and others to the fact that the ONTARIO FARMER is so arranged that in binding their volumes at the end of the year, the advertisements, which are of course only of transient interest, are omitted without interfering with the contents proper of this journal. In other words, our readers always get the same quantity of reading matter, let the advertisements be few or many. In most other periodicals of this description, the advertisements encroach more or less on the reading matter. The *American Agriculturist* for July for example, ostensibly a 40 page journal, has 12 pages of advertisements. This is a very fine thing for the publisher, no doubt, but it reduces the permanently useful contents of the paper very seriously. We are sure that this feature in the ONTARIO FARMER only needs to be thus pointed out to be appreciated by its patrons and friends.

In conclusion, we most sincerely thank all who have aided our undertaking, and would say as we did at the outset, "We shall receive very thankfully whatever encouragement and co-operation may be accorded to us, whether in obtaining subscribers, forming clubs, or sending items of agricultural intelligence, and communications suitable for these columns." We can still supply back numbers to new subscribers, and so long as we are able to do so wish it to be understood that all subscriptions date from the first of the year.

MORE JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER:—

SIR,—A few thoughts on some observations made during a recent sojourn in the country may not be devoid of interest to some of your readers.

HON. D. CHRISTIE'S SALE OF STOCK.

Having some official business west, I embraced the opportunity of being present at Mr. Christie's sale of short-horn bulls, June 10th, on the Plains Farm, near Paris. The attendance was pretty good, considering that the sale was limited to eight bulls, seven of them young, of Mr. Christie's own breeding from the celebrated stock which he imported a few years since from the world-renowned herd of Mr. Douglas, Athelstaneford, Scotland. Unfortunately, a train from the west, containing, it was supposed, several American buyers, owing to some detention, did not arrive in time. The prices obtained were by no means commensurate with the high breeding and worth of the animals, none of which had been pampered, or in any way prepared for exhibition, but were in a thriving and sound condition for breeding purposes. People have been so accustomed to see pure bred cattle, particularly short-horns, in so fleshy a condition when exposed for sale or competition, that a feeling bordering on disappointment is in some way or other not unfrequently manifested when these conditions do not obtain. This mistake is much to be regretted, as nothing can be more injurious to the health and procreative power of breeding stock of either sex than what is commonly understood by "pampering," which, when carried to excess, as it often is, results in an abnormal development and debilitated constitution.

The well-known aged bull, "OXFORD LAD," sired by the renowned "Duke of Gloster," and bred by Mr. J. O. Sheldon, of Geneva, N.Y., was sold for \$325. It is true the infirmities of age are fast telling on this noble animal, still good service may be got out of him yet. The subjoined facts relating to him, taken from the catalogue, may be interesting to many of your readers:—

"OXFORD LAD was the winner of the first prize as a two-year-old, and the sweepstakes of