

stand on a barrel when tying the top of the shocks.

Mr. Pratt believed it paid to keep a good many cows, and to keep them well; he thought we were all pretty well satisfied that the stock we kept only broke down our straw, they did not make it into manure. Now if we kept more stock, grew less straw, and made what we did grow into good manure, it would be better for us. He believed that the Ayrshire breed of cows was the best for dairy purposes; Durham cows would milk very well for two or three months after they calved, but after that they would not give much. He found that if the Ayrshires did not give so much milk at first, after calving they held out better, and gave more milk in the fall and winter. He thought he could keep three Ayrshires as easily on the same feed as he could keep two Durhams, and that the Ayrshires would give more milk per head than the Durhams.

For the Farmers' Advocate.

Movement of Live Stock in Great Britain.

Horse, cattle and all sorts of live stock move briskly in the old country in the months of February and March. As our farmers of Canada are rapidly establishing a market in Great Britain for improved cattle, and as our best importations come from that country, we purpose to review briefly the leading features of these sales and exchanges amongst the first heads in England and Scotland especially worthy of note during the preceding two months.

Among the most notable shows was that of the Clydesdale stallions, yearly held in Glasgow. The show was very well attended, both in quality and quantity. There were no less than 81 stallions exhibited, being almost double the number shown in the preceding year. This exhibition was originally established under the auspices of the Glasgow Agricultural Society, for the purpose of securing to that Society a choice of a good stallion for the use of its members. Nearly all the stallions shown were young.

The first prize was awarded by the above Society, who chose for their use, Crown Prince—Dark brown, five years old, bred by Mr. G. Brown Shiels, New Galloway and out of Champion. We mention this last horse especially, because he is of the same blood as our own Champion horses in Canada, and it is a proof that Canada has imported the best blood of Scotland in heavy draught horses.

Highland Chief was secured by the Mid Calder Society, and drew their premium of £50.

The Iwell was selected by the tenantry of the Marquis of Londonderry, and that nobleman subsequently purchased the stallion at £300. Softy the Fourth was sold for no less than £500 stig., while Victor, four year old, was sold to the New Cornwall Stud Company at the handsome figure of £400.

THE SALE OF THE TOWNLEY HERD.

This herd should be well known to the Canadian farmer, as importations have been constantly made from it, and stock of Townley descent have invariably made their mark at our larger shows, notably at the Ontario Provincial Annual Exhibitions.

Lady Oxford, owned by John Miller, of Bronyham, and taking second prize at Kingston, in 1871, as a grading heifer (a decision which the writer of this notice at the time thought might have justly been reversed to first prize), was, through her dam, Lady Butterfly, by Great Mogul, a descendent of this celebrated Townley herd.

Lady Butterfly was of the old Townley Vestris tribe, and as a remarkable instance of the high position this tribe holds in the old country, our readers will perhaps remember that in 1864, 50 head were sold at an average price of £103 14s. 9d., and are in direct descent from Mr. Chas. Collings' Countess, which was sold as an aged cow, no less than sixty-three years ago, for the then enormous price of 400 guineas, or over two thousand dollars.

In the late Provincial Fair, held at Hamilton, farmers may have observed a very handsome bull, British Bason, three years old, shown by John Snell, of Edmonton. This bull was also bought from Colonel Townley, of Lancashire, England.

From these importations our own farmers can form some estimate of the style of cattle put up at the auction sales of the Townley herd, one of which is advertised to come off on the 1st of May.

SHORT HORN BULL SALE AT BIRMINGHAM.

This sale came off as usual in March, at Birmingham, when 180 bulls were entered for premiums and for sale.

The auction sale, which followed the award of premiums, averaged for bull calves \$160, and yearling bulls, \$290, bulls of serviceable age being sold at \$100.

THE WELLINGTON (ONTARIO), EASTER SHOW.

This Easter Show, always looked forward to with great interest by the farmers of the locality, and well attended by buyers from Montreal to Chicago, and from Chicago to New York, came off with unexceptional success.

Over 500 head of cattle changed hands, and there were a great number of buyers present.

It was fully expected by farmers that were present that prices would be low, but they were slightly in excess of those paid at the fairs held in the neighborhood during winter and early spring.

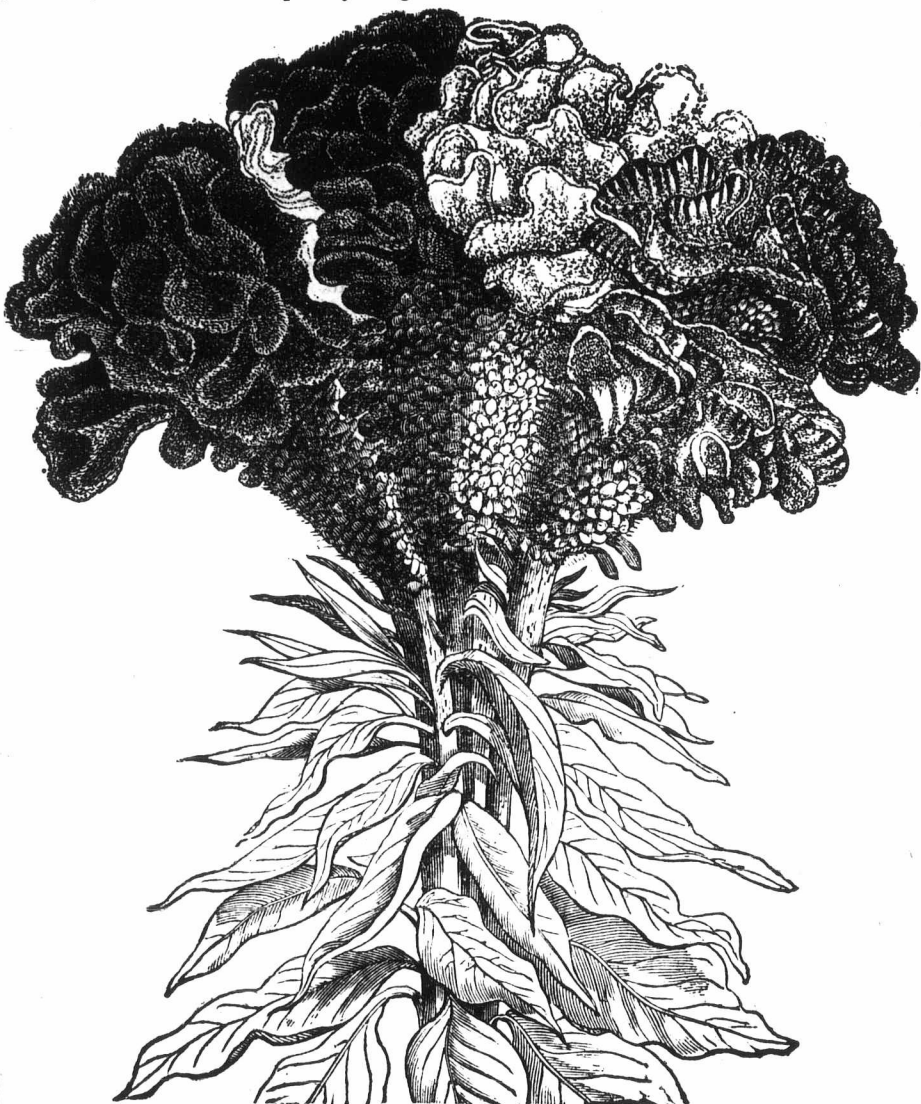
The fact appears to be, that feed is very short in the county of Wellington, and in parts adjacent, and consequently a great

number of cattle were thrown on the market which it was absolutely necessary for the fatter to get rid of.

We were at the February fairs held both in Elora and Guelph, and we found prices ranging from \$2.50 to \$4.00 per 100 lbs., while at the Easter Fair at Guelph, cattle sold readily and briskly at from \$3.50 up to \$6.00 per 100 lbs, while a very few even reached \$9.00 and \$10.00 per 100 lbs.

Mr. Wm. Rennie, of Lyons, had previously sold a beast for Easter at the rate of ten cents per lb. on foot. When we were at his barn in February, the steer weighed over 2,400 lbs., making the value of the animal then \$240. Query—Does it pay to keep only good grade cattle? We think Mr. Rennie would answer this question without hesitation in the affirmative.

We do not think our farmers will be justified in looking for very high prices this year, although doubtless June beef will be profitable. The fact is, the Western raisers are uncommonly hard up for money, and very large herds of Texas cattle may be expected to over crowd the Chicago and Eastern markets.



The New Gold and Crimson Variegated Cockscobs.

(*Colosia cristata variegata*.)

This superb novelty was propagated by Haage & Schmidt, of Erfurt, Prussia, who describes it as follows:—

"The cut shows the mode of variegation, which is as remarkable as it is strikingly beautiful. The golden yellow, as well as the deep crimson, is of the most brilliant hue, and the variegation is as distinctly marked as the Union Jack, even when the golden colored part is sprinkled and streaked with crimson. It is constant to the extent that but a few uni-colored crimson plants come up which are entirely glossy red in foliage and stem, whereas the color of the variegated plant, stem and leaves, is a glossy light grass green, quite distinct from any other *Colosia*. The stem is often marked with a vein-like, bright red stripe lengthwise up to the comb, and then the leaves are more or less tinted with a bronze red. It attains a height of three feet and should be sown early, as it comes to perfection late.

We presume this is the greatest novelty in flowers introduced this season. Messrs. Briggs Bros., of Rochester, New York, are the firm that introduce this remarkable

and beautiful flower. Messrs. Briggs Bros. is one of the oldest seed establishments in the States, and perhaps the largest. They issue a large and handsome catalogue, also a quarterly supplement. Their reputation is well known, and their authority is as good as any we can have on this continent.

Mr. C. E. Brydges is raising a few of the plants, but the price of Cockcomb seed is such as would astonish us farmers, namely, 19 CENTS FOR EACH SEED for one lot, and that by taking a quantity. What would our farmers think of purchasing wheat at 19 cents a grain. Mr. Brydges is an English gentleman. He has now the Hon. John Carling's farm, near this city. He has erected the best lot of propagating houses to be found in the western part of Canada. He thoroughly understands horticulture, and has the largest stock of choice house and bedding plants to be found in Western Ontario. Should any of our fair readers have time when they come to this city to walk through his conservatories, they would be pleased with his beautiful flowers and plants. This acquisition will save many of our readers the

trouble and expense of sending to Toronto or the States for their choice plants. He has imported from England, France, Germany and the States, such a collection as we may never have had before in this part of Canada. We presume no other florist in Canada has yet offered one these beautiful Cockcombs to the public. Mr. Brydges will offer a few this year at 50 cents a plant. Such prices may appear exorbitant to our farmers, but the cost of procuring these new varieties is little thought of by us. Mr. Brydges is preparing to fill orders from all parts of the Dominion. He intends sending plants per mail pack-d in such a manner that they may be safely sent hundreds of miles, in fact to any post-office in the Dominion. We think this plan may be adopted beneficially. Admirers of choice flowers may perhaps procure them at a much cheaper rate than by purchasing the seed, which being often very fine and delicate, dies on the hands of those that have not time to attend to hot beds, and have no propagating houses. He intends to have his plants ready to put out as soon as the dangers of our spring frost are passed, which he considers will be from the first to the tenth of June. Those that get them by the first of June will have to watch for frosty nights. By the tenth of June we may consider ourselves pretty safe. You will find Mr. Brydges a reliable and honorable gentleman. You can safely entrust him with your orders. We are highly pleased to inform you we have such an establishment in this part of Canada. We would call your attention to his advertisement in Supplement. These house plants are kept ready for order at all times.

Notice to our Patrons.

We have been receiving from 25 to 63 letters daily for many weeks past, and it has been a pressing time to attend to all. Perhaps some have not been as well attended as they deserved. Friends will excuse, enemies may bluster, we are endeavoring to do our best to satisfy all. We now wish for any that have complaints to make for inattention, or other causes, to write us, and head the letter complaint. State particulars, give dates, no matter how far back, and we will try to rectify for each of you. State what you require, what you may have done for us, if anything. As we have a large collection of seed, we will try and satisfy everyone, particularly those that have sent us money for subscribers.

WORTH KNOWING

A correspondent of the *Scientific American* asks "if there is anything that will remove the taste of kerosene from a cask?" The *National Oil Journal* answers yes, and says the operation is simple, cheap and effective. Set the cask on its end, remove one head, and build a fire in the bottom of the cask with straw, or any light combustible matter. Allow the head which has been taken out, to remain suspended in the cask while burning. When the inner surface is charred, put out the fire by covering up the open end, and rinse the barrel with strong lye. A barrel thus treated can be used for cyder, meat or any other purpose.

OILING THE HARNESS.

In these times of poor leather we should clean and oil the harness at least once a year to keep it in good condition, and to reduce the wear and tear as much as possible. Don't let the job out to the harness maker, but some of the stormy days, when the harness is not in use, just take it into the workshop and commence operations. Take the harness all apart, and scrape off all scuff, hairs and dirt, and wash the leather clean with soap and hot water. Then heat two or three quarts of neatfoot oil in a long, shallow pan, and draw each piece of leather through it slowly, bending the leather backward and forward, and rubbing the oil in with a cloth or sponge. Hang near the fire to dry, and repeat the process until the leather is saturated with oil; mix a little lampblack with clean tallow, and with a cloth rub it into the leather while warm, until the pores are filled and the surface becomes smooth and glossy. If a harness is oiled in this way it is never gummy, and will therefore keep clean a long time. Sometimes linseed oil or adulterated oils are used, but they dry on the leather and make it gummy, dirt and hairs stick to it, and the harness gets so filthy as to soil everything it touches. After the harness has had a good oiling, an occasional rubbing with tallow and lampblack will keep the leather tough and pliable, and prevent it from cracking.—*Country Gentleman*.

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