

ing, as well as to instruct them." We not only hope the Society will be enabled to carry out this excellent object, but should like to see the Provincial Association of Upper Canada lending its aid, as soon as practicable. Co-operation for promoting a common good is always desirable; for "union is strength." The Society has taken an important step in the appointment of a seedsman; and we copy the following paragraph for the information of our readers, who will at once see that something of the sort ought to be done for Upper Canada, which comprises by far the most important agricultural portion of the United Province:

"Mr. George Shepherd, seedsman to the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, has imported a large quantity of European clover, and lucerne, for the Society, which has been admitted free of duty, and will be disposed of at cost price to members of the Society, and to County Agricultural Societies, who may apply in time. We believe it will be found that European clover will answer better in Canada than any other, as it takes a longer time to become perfectly ripe than clover which is raised from American seed, and therefore foreign clover will be the most profitable to sow with timothy seed.—Clover intended for hay, if allowed to become too ripe before it is cut, is not of much value, and clover grown from European seed will not be ripe before the timothy growing with it is fit to cut. We would recommend every farmer who has his land fit for clover to sow some by all means in spring.—Lucerne requires that the soil should be in excellent condition for it, and it must be subsequently kept perfectly clear of all grass and weeds. Mr. Shepherd has appropriated a part of his store for the purpose of receiving samples of agricultural seeds or other produce, on the plan of a Corn Exchange, where members of the Society will have the privilege of showing samples of produce they may have to dispose of. The samples of grain to consist of one quart each, accompanied with the name of the variety, the weight per bushel, the quality of the soil on which it has been grown, and any other information that may be considered interesting. This will be a very convenient mode of showing samples and of purchasing grain for seed or any other purpose, and such accommodation is much wanted in Montreal. Any one having a good sample of grain to dispose of, by placing it at Mr. Shepherd's, will be almost certain to obtain a customer for it, and any person requiring to buy any particular species or variety of seed, will find it at once, and ascertain the description of soil on which it has been grown, a most essential information."

**WINTERING CATTLE.**—The way to summer your cattle well is to winter them well; and half the secret of good wintering is to keep them warm. Animal heat is generated in proportion to the abundance and excellence of their food. Exposure to the cold air withdraws heat rapidly, and of course makes more food necessary to re-supply it, just as an open door makes it necessary to have more wood in the stove. If your stock run down in the winter and come out lean and feeble, all the summer will not fully bring them up again.

## AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

We take the following extracts from an interesting article that lately appeared in the *Evangelical Pioneer*, a paper published at London, C. W. It is gratifying to see the Provincial Press devoting some attention to Colonial agriculture, which after all must be the grand source of our wealth and the pillar of our strength. Too frequently do we hear in this country that labor is so high and prices so low as to preclude any material improvement in the important art of farming. We have always been of opinion that agriculture generally, either in ancient or modern times, and in any part of the world, has never afforded exorbitant profits. The farmer's life is one of constant application and labour, involving a considerable amount of mental anxiety, and requiring the exercise of much prudence and economy. But then it is a life of healthful independence, affording with honest industry, if not a fortune, at least the means of an honorable subsistence. We should have preferred the following calculation if it had been the result of actual experience, rather than being as it is put hypothetically. So little indeed are farmers in the habit of keeping a strict account of their expenses and income, which would enable them to ascertain exactly their profit or loss upon the operations of the whole year, and also approximately on each particular article of produce, that we think it right to draw their attention specially to the subject: and we hope it may be the means of eliciting some statements from experienced and practical men. Profit or loss should not be calculated for one or two seasons only, but for a sufficient length of time to afford a fair average. What is wanting are calculations founded upon a series of actual results. Computations on paper beforehand are frequently very different from the proceeds of the field as determined by measure and markets:—

"The man who tries improved methods, and keeps no accounts, may be expected to say, "It won't pay," or to run into the other extreme and say,—"It pays handsomely, and I intend to go into it on a large scale," because, in truth, he knows nothing about it, and hits or misses at hazard.

The man who does not try to make any improvement in his farming, is either incredulous or obstinate, and the sooner he gets rid of both the better for him.

He, however, who keeps correct accounts, is the man who is likely to make real improvements,—cautious improvements; because by the habit of submitting every thing to the test of figures, errors in judgment are corrected. There is no withstanding their truthfulness; no poetry here; all is plain, straightforward, up and down matter of fact,—the result being careful calculation from known facts, added to the money value of expenses and returns.