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## OFFICIAL PART.

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### DE OMNIBUS RERUS.

April 26th, 1888.

**Cows in winter.**—I see by the Country Gentleman's report of the meeting of the Hornellville Institute that most if not all the farmers present were in favour of confining milch cows to the stables throughout the winter. The Secretary, Mr. Woodward (pure Saxon, by the soul of Hengist!), has 74 cows, none of which have been out of the stable since Nov. 1st. He has repeatedly made experiments on the matter. Each cow, on an average, makes a gain of from 300 lbs. to 350 lbs., besides producing enough butter to pay for her keep. If he were to turn out his cows, he would put a blanket on each of them. Mr. Rogers keeps his cows stabled for weeks at a time, and always waters them in doors. Mr. Crozier, the Jersey breeder, of Long Island, keeps his cows in the stable from November until spring, and his cows and calves are always in very vigorous condition. The above farmers are all living in a very much milder climate than

ours, and if they find the udder of a cow suffer from exposure, how much more would it be likely to suffer in the latitude of Quebec.

Mr. Woodward observed that he had made his money by farming, and in his opinion it does not pay to plough under green-crops. "They are worth more as manure after passing through the animal." This is probably a badly reported sentence. What he meant to say was: they are worth more as food for stock, and what the stock do not assimilate will find its way back to the land as manure.

Mr. F. D. Curtis still holds the, to my mind, absurd opinion that cattle should only have two meals a day. This is the progressive one who sows his oats on the bare frozen ground without ploughing or harrowing, and is followed therein by, I regret to say, more than one farmer who ought to know better. However, I am happy to state that the fad will not last long, for already complaints of failures begin to arrive. Mr. A. N. Curry, of Menard county, writes to the Country Gentleman: "I tried Mr. Curtis' plan of sowing oats early and not covering. I sowed about two acres, that I had prepared last fall, on the 20th of February, on the bare frozen ground, and last week, when I examined them, they had all rotted!" Yes, I should think so.

**Seed.**—There must be something mysterious in the soil and climate of the State of New-York. Several of the farmers agreed in Mr. Woodward's dogma that not a grain over 1½ bushels to the acre of oats should be sown. I should like to know what the average yield from this very small quantity is. If the return is not greater in proportion than the return of the wheat-crop—13½ bushels (Winchester bushels too) to the acre, I should recommend the members of the Institute to at least double their quantity of seed. We are not absolute