

## ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

## I. An effectual means of saving Horses, &amp;c., in case of Fire.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—I have been much grieved on reading accounts of horses and cattle being consumed in fires which have occurred, both in Canada and the United States; and was lately grievously shocked on contemplating the half roasted carcass of a cow, and still more lately, of a horse, lying among the ruins after two of these calamities which happened in this city. We are not told that any attempts were made, upon any of these occasions, to save the wretched animals from perishing in a manner so much to be lamented. I shall not indulge in any vague speculations on the question, whether these and other creatures exist in a future state, when they shall be emancipated from the effects of the fall of man, or whether they, some time or other, enjoy themselves in a state of innocence, peace and happiness, and freedom from labor, want and suffering, as they certainly did previous to that dreadful event. But I may be allowed to say, that every act of cruelty, neglect, or even carelessness, on the part of our race, by which distress and suffering is caused to living beings of whatever kind, ought to be, and I doubt not will be, visited ten fold upon the heads of the offenders. In the case of the animals consumed, on the occasions above referred to, I shall take the view most favorable to human nature, and suppose, either that they could not be reached on account of the intensity of the fire, or when they were got at, they were already destroyed, or (and this is the most probable of all reasons,) they could not be removed, or induced and caused to remove themselves, and thus, through the ignorance of mankind, of a very simple, effectual, and easy mode of operation, in such cases, they miserably perished.

The means I shall now lay before your readers, (should you choose to publish this communication) I have never seen in print; but I may be allowed to affirm, that in point of value, it even exceeds one of the most excellent works of man's invention, I mean insurance,—and to say in the language of our active and business doing neighbors. "It is worth a good many dollars;" for it is certainly a matter of most vital consequence for farmers and all owners of horses and cattle, to know how in cases of sudden fire, they may save the lives of, and thereby prevent much horrible torment, and a cruel and dreadful death to, these valuable animals, and consequently a heavy loss to themselves. You may perhaps say "come to the point at once, and give us your plan." I must however, interest your patience for one moment, till I first explain one cause why horses especially, often suffer on such occasions, and the means of prevention will then be better comprehended by every class of readers. It is a curious natural propensity of horses, if not of cattle generally, to cling to the place where fire is raging all around them, and no beating, flogging, or any other persuasion or compulsion is of any use to induce them to save themselves. They have been known

to lie down and perish, even when in a loose herd rather than remove, nay, in some instances, appear so charmed as it were, (as birds are to be by serpents) that they have rushed into, and been consumed by the flames, as they had been fairly removed from theirfluence. It may perhaps, with correctness said, that sheer terror is the cause of their acting in the one case, while they must be influenced by some other indistinguishable feeling impulse in the other. These circumstances, however, not being very material at present, I do not now discuss them.

The plan I recommend is, first to blind the animal thoroughly, and second, to unloose the halter, and the terrified animal will, kind and gentle usage at once suffer him to be led past, nay, even through the raucement. I have myself been benefited by possessing the knowledge of this plan, and satisfactorily and practically put it to the test after all other means that could be thought both gentle, persuasive, and compulsory, been tried in vain. Should it prove of service many occasions, I shall, of course, be highly delighted; and if it does so even in one, I shall be well pleased.

I am, &amp;c.,

SCOTT

## II. ON WATER CISTERNS.

SIR,—

During the four years that I have taken a useful paper, I have frequently noticed your desire for communications from persons interested in the improvement of this fine country. Considering myself amongst that number, I feel on upon at the present time to call the attention of my fellow countrymen to a matter of great importance to every one who desires to have a comfortable about his house. I refer to Cisterns for rain water. I have had one in use now five years, and though it cost me much more than one need cost others at the present time, if on a similar plan, it has long since repaid its cost, and I consider that I now have it for nothing. I will endeavour to give a description of it:

The man who made it, merely dug a hole in the solid clay, about five feet across at the top and about the same number of feet deep, with bottom, however, a little less than the top, with round sides. This was made smooth with three coats of mortar, made of good sand and hydraulic cement, (about half of sand and half the cement,) were laid on, whilst the mortar was still fresh. Across the top was laid a piece of timber 6×8 inches, imbedded six inches on each side of the cistern; and upon this and there