

CISTERNS FOR FARM BUILDINGS.

Free, wholesome water, as a constant beverage, for man or animals, is essential to sound health. Its relative salubrity depends on the various animal, vegetable, or mineral particles with which it may be impregnated, and the places whence it is procured. The transparency or purity of that obtained from wells or springs, varies according to the strata of earth through which it percolates. The most wholesome fluid is derived from springs issuing from pure sand-stone or primitive rocks, or from sandy soils principally composed of granite or quartz where it has undergone a perfect filtration. The water of lakes and ponds has similar properties in general, as that of rivers or brooks, but being less agitated, and containing more organic matter in a state of decomposition, it acquires a greater degree of impurity, and consequently is less fit for culinary use, though, on account of its softness, it may be employed with advantage for washing clothes.

Rain-water collected in the vicinity of cities or populous towns, as well as in the neighbourhood of marshes or mines, especially during summer, is always more or less impure. Therefore it should not be used, if it can be avoided, except for washing linen, &c., or watering plants, unless it be purified by filtration or other means. The fluid obtained by dissolving snow is somewhat purer; but of all natural waters, that obtained by melting hail is the most pure, as it contains fewer extraneous particles, in consequence of its congealing high in the air; so that it cannot combine with noxious ingredients during its descent. Like all water, however, which falls from the clouds, it contains minute quantities of air, carbonic and nitric acids, carbonate of ammonia and other salts.

Well, or pump-water, is generally less pure than any of the preceding, as it frequently contains large quantities of carbonate or sulphate of lime, which are the cause of its "hardness," and the property of curdling soap. In all large towns, that have long been inhabited, the wells are generally rendered unfit for use, in consequence of the ground having been tainted by church-yards, vaults, and other nuisances, which, doubtless, is the cause of much suffering, and even of the shortening of life itself. Therefore, in all regions where lime-stone or other impurities in the soil abound, or where the farmers unavoidably have to sink their wells to a great depth, we would recommend the construction of cisterns near all of the principal farm-buildings for retaining the water which may fall from their roofs. By this means a large supply of wholesome water may be had all the year round, at a comparatively small cost, which will not only be essential in all purposes about the house, but will be found useful in irrigating the garden, as well as for watering stock.

The most convenient and durable mode of constructing a cistern, is, to make it of a circular form, under ground, with bottom sides lined with stone or bricks laid in hydraulic cement; and in many cases mortar may be plastered directly on the sides of the pit without the aid of bricks or stone. A cistern, eight feet in diameter and nine feet deep, will hold about one hundred barrels, and will require three thousand four hundred bricks to face its sides. The cement to be employed should be of first-rate quality, such as that used in the construction of the Croton aqueduct or the Erie canal. If this cannot conveniently be obtained, a very good article may be made of four parts brick-dust, finely screened; eight parts fine, sharp, fresh water sand; twelve parts of lime completely slacked by burying in the ground, so as to exclude the air during the process of slacking, three parts of powdered quick lime, newly burnt, and three parts of powdered charcoal. First, mix the slacked lime, brick-dust, charcoal, and sand, with water sufficient to make a mortar thinner than usual; then sprinkle in the quick lime. Mix well with a trowel, and use immediately, as it will soon grow stiff and hard.

Cisterns should be completely covered with planks or stone, so as to exclude insects, leaves and dust. If the buildings be situated on a hill-side, it would be preferable to conduct the water to the place where wanted for use by means of a pipe, without the labour of pumping, or lifting it out by hand.—[American Agriculturist.

HINTS TO FARMERS.

Tomatoes make excellent preserves. Toids are the very best protection of cabbage against lice.

Plants, when drooping, are revived by a few grains of camphor.

Pears are generally improved by grafting on the mountain ash.

Sulphur is valuable in preserving grapes &c. from insects.

Lard never spoils in hot weather if it is cooked enough in frying out.

In feeding with corn, 60 lbs. ground goes as far as 100 lbs. in the kernel.

Corn meal should never be ground very fine. It injures the richness of it.

Turnips of small size have double the nutritious matter that large ones have.

Ruta Baga is the only root that increases in nutritious qualities as it increases in size.

Sweet olive oil is a certain cure for the bite of a rattlesnake. Apply it both internally and externally.

Rats and other vermin are kept away from grain by a sprinkling of garlic when packing up the sheaves.

Money skillfully expended in drying land, by draining or otherwise, will be returned with ample interest.

To cure scratches on a horse, wash the legs with warm soap suds, and then with beef brine. Two applications will generally cure in the worst case.

Timber cut in the spring, and exposed to the weather, with the bark on, decays much sooner than if cut in the fall.

Experiments show apples to be equal to potatoes to improve hogs, and decidedly preferable for feeding cattle.

Wild onions may be destroyed by cultivating corn, ploughing and leaving the field in its ploughed state all winter.

CANADA FARMER.

September 11, 1847.

SHORT HORN CATTLE.

Will live on close feed and thrive as well as others.

The following extracts from a letter received by us the other day, from Lewis F. Allen, Esq., of Black Rock, N. Y., in answer to one we wrote him, making some inquiries about the Short Horns, will, we trust, be interesting and profitable to our readers. Mr. Allen is the author of the American *Herd Book*, in which is recorded the history and pedigree of all the best blood stock in America. Mr. A. is also one of the most intelligent agriculturists and experienced stock breeders in the Union, and has one of the largest and best selected herds of cattle. His communication to us was not intended for publication, but we presume Mr. Allen will not object to the insertion of the following paragraphs, with a view of awakening a desire among our countrymen to improve in this most essential branch of farming. Our chief enquiry was as to the ability of the improved breeds to endure inclement weather and short feed:—

Black Rock, Aug. 29, 1847.

DEAR SIR.—Your esteemed favour of 21st inst., is received. In relation to your enquiries about Cattle and their improvements. I have been for more than a dozen years engaged, more or less in that occupation with other things—beginning at first as an amusement, but grown by habit and taste almost into a passion. I have bred chiefly with the view of obtaining good milking stock—and have succeeded. I bred both short horns and Devons, with their grades or the common or native cattle, as I have not been able to raise enough to stock my farm with pure blood of either kind, keeping about 100 cows for dairy

purposes. My cows all work, i. e. they give milk regularly in the dairy—and thus far both the Short horns and Devons, each in their own sphere have answered all my expectations. Both breeds are good milkers—with good pasture, and plenty of hay in winter the short horns are hardy and profitable. The Devons will keep well on closer feed, but like all other cattle they pay better on good feed than on poor. Were I to choose a breed for light lands I would take the Devons—and they will thrive on strong soil equally well with others. But in the Canadas, as in this region, most of the farms will carry short horns, and when the land is good, they are in my estimation, the prince of all the neat cattle family.

Mr. A. then describes two or three of his young bulls which he will sell at \$125 and \$100, (we had stated our desire to purchase) and continues:—

Prices of fine blooded stock are by many persons unacquainted with breeding them thought high in America, although not half what they are in England, but it should be recollected that good breeders who have a reputation for their stock, select only the best bull calves for raising, of course the ordinary ones are sacrificed either as veal or steers, and perhaps out of a dozen, only 2, 3, or 4, as the case may be, are fit for stock getting of the requisite quality, and in such a course only can good stock be kept up—indiscriminate breeding always having a downward tendency, and it is for a want of proper knowledge and consideration in breeding that so many fail in their efforts at breeding good stock, even when furnished with good animals to begin with. In fact it is a science of itself, and no mean one either—requiring long experience, a quick and accurate eye, a sound judgment in animal anatomy, and physiology.

You ask if my experience corroborates the assertions of A. R. Allen in the American Agriculturist as to the hardiness of short horns on winter keep—Yes decidedly—Mine are as hardy and as easily kept as the common cattle and more so. I have kept them in all ways (the pen breeds) from close housing in the stable, to running out in the open fields at a start, with the common cattle, and invariably—other things being equal—my short horns have come out in spring decidedly the best, and so with the Devons—all this and the reasons for it, I could demonstrate to you on physiological principles as connected with improved stock of any kind, had I the space—I hope to do so in a personal interview. I might spare a few young cows or heifers, but am not anxious—as I keep a good many cows I want to work as rapidly into blood stock as I can. I have a good many high grades such as 3-4-7-8-15-16 short horn Devons &c, using nothing but thoroughbred bulls of any kind, and those the best, so that I constantly breed up—still I keep the pure blood when I know it, never selling anything as thorough bred but what is so by well authenticated pedigree.

I congratulate you on your selection of a profession as editor which is so intimately connected with all that is ennobling and exalted in human affairs, that of elevating the Agriculture of your country—It is a cause that must succeed, and however slow may be its first progress, rely upon it, it will be appreciated and your efforts responded to.

I shall be much pleased to see you at Saratoga. Find me out when you arrive there—enough of people know me. I hope to find my friend the Hon. Adam Ferguson among the visitors as usual. And any time when you can I shall be most happy to see you here at my residence—or to hear from you by letter or otherwise.

Very truly & respectfully yours,

LEWIS A. ALLEN.

If family sickness do not prevent, we intend visiting New York this month, and shall endeavour to call at Saratoga on our way, where we hope to glean some important information, and shall certainly do ourselves the honor of making Mr. Allen's acquaintance.

We have been frequently answered when urging upon our friends the advantage of improving their cattle by introducing the Short Horns, that they were not hardy, and that they required so much food and of a rich quality, that with our long Canadian winters, the cost would be more than the profit. Now, as this is a question of fact, it can only be satisfactorily settled by actual experiment.—Mr. Allen, who lives on the Niagara River, where we apprehend, the climate and soil are in no respect superior to many parts of Canada, gives the above testimony after a sufficiently lengthy experience. He keeps 100 cows for the dairy, and he is desirous of

working as fast as possible into the pure blood. Why? Because he finds that such objections as the above are imaginary and untrue, and that with a "proper knowledge and consideration in breeding" the Short Horns are greatly to be preferred.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE APPROACHING MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION AT HAMILTON.

Arrangements are being made on a very extensive scale for the second annual meeting of this Association, which is to take place at Hamilton on the 6th and 7th of October.—Our farmers are deeply interested in the success of the exhibition; and we hope none of them will deprive themselves of the pleasure and instruction to be derived from attendance. The meeting is, we understand, to be honoured with the presence of the Governor-General.

A Hamilton cotemporary says:—

"The Local Committee held their second meeting on the 31st, in the rooms of the Hamilton Building Society, kindly placed by the directors at their disposal.

The hon. Adam Ferguson, V. P., took the Chair, when the reports of various sub-committees were presented by their conveners, and duly considered.

These sub-committees are not yet entirely arranged, but the following partial list will show that some progress has been made.

1. Arrangements in Show Ground—Miles O'Reilly, Esquire.
2. Horticultural Seeds, Roots, &c.—Arch. Kerr, Esquire.
3. Manufacturers—John Young, Esquire
4. Implements and Machinery—John Fisher, Esquire.
5. Fine Arts—J. T. Brongest, Esq.
6. Dinner Arrangements—Nehemiah Ford, Esq.
7. Reception of Strangers—William Atkinson, Esquire.
8. Subscription—Samuel Mills, Esq."

And adds, with regard to the dinner,

"The not uninteresting subject of the dinner, has been happily arranged by Mr. Ford, and an agreement entered into with Mr. Roach, Court House Square, to erect a suitable and comfortable Pavilion, with accommodation for 500 guests, and a good dinner at one dollar a head. We may add, for the information of intending visitors, that every exertion will be made for their comfort, and that the Committee have received a pledge from the leading Hotels, refusing strangers from any demand beyond the ordinary rate of board.

Our correspondent "Censorious" is rather severe in his remarks; but as his comments are based upon facts, we could not with justice reject his communication.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES BY THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of the Canada Farmer.

Messrs. Editors,—I know not whom to censure, the Committee who drew up the scale of prizes for distribution at the approaching Provincial exhibition, or yourselves for passing over in silence the ridiculous inconsistencies in the prize list. However, as you possess the power of rejecting my communication, I think the safest plan will be to excuse your silence on the subject, on the ground that you may have been willing to pass over the matter in question rather than assume the office of censor: I confess that, if that be the cause of your silence, you are much more fastidious than I am. Before I contrast some of the items in the prize list, allow me to notice some very culpable omissions. The gentlemen by whom the list is drawn up seem not to have the slightest idea of progress. Everything relating to the great improvements of the age they have passed over altogether: except, indeed, some accident should have brought it within the range of their own observation. One of the greatest of modern improvements, under draining, is passed over as if such a thing had never been heard of. No encouragement is offered to induce farmers to test the system of marling or liming their land. A premium is offered for a "mod. fence," but I presume it means a fence of the perishable material which was used by the first settlers! No doubt they expect an improvement in appearance; but they seem to have never dreamed of getting rid of the present perishable description of fence by substituting in its place a lasting fence, which would have the character of durability while its general use would beautify and adorn the face of the whole country.

No premium is offered for specimens of Oil Cake, an article in the manufacture of which any man who has the slightest preten-