

their sentences a shabby and unfinished sound, as, "Went to Boston—called on Mrs. Smith." Never apologise for what you write, by saying that you do not write letters. You would not think it quite polite, in visiting a friend, to say, "I do not like to talk to you, so I shall not say much." Keep the idea before you that you are writing for the sake of giving pleasure to your friend.

When your letter is merely an enquiry, or on a matter of business, the case is different. You then should try to be as brief, concise, and clear as possible. An elaborately drawn out business letter is as out of place as it is inconsiderate.

"Do not think what to write, but write what you think," is an old rule, and a good one to remember. If you are away from home, it is very selfish not to share your good times with the family by writing frequent letters. You can tell what you are enjoying so much better while it is fresh in your mind, than you can after you return, when you may not have leisure to go over the whole ground; and these home letters may be a means afterward of refreshing your own memory, and reminding you of incidents which you would otherwise have forgotten. There are many other things which might be said here, but this will do for the present. A very good rule for letter-writing is the golden one, "Do as you would be done by."—*St. Nicholas.*

The Crops.

The prospect of the crops is not quite as cheering as at the time of writing our last report. Recent refreshing rains have done much good in this locality. A frost at the unusual date of the 22nd of June has done some damage to the fall wheat, corn, potatoes, millet, and many other crops have been affected by it; some will recover themselves. The low and damp lands are the most affected. The day after the frost we examined a field near this city of corn, potatoes, beans, cucumbers, &c. We could not find the least trace of frost. The field was well drained and on high land.

Weather Prospects.

Mr. Venor, of Montreal, who has gained himself high esteem for his correct forecasts of the weather, now forebodes heavy rains and high winds that will do damage. We may profit by this information by securing our crops as soon as possible. If anything is fit, cut and carry it into the barn with extra diligence this year. See that the roofs of your buildings are as secure against wind and rain as you can make them.

Of the coming exhibitions, the first list we have received is that of Hamilton. The fair is to be held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th of October. Competition open to all the world. Eight thousand dollars will be offered in premiums for stock, agricultural and horticultural products, implements, manufactures, fine arts, ladies' work, &c. The association will make such favorable arrangements as are found practicable with steamboat and railroad proprietors for carrying articles and passengers at reduced rates.

Poland China Hogs.

To "G. H."—A full description, with cut, of this strain of hogs was given in the April number of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, and they can be procured from W. K. Secord, Winona, P. O., Ont., or D. M. Magie, Oxford, U. S., whose cards appear in "Breeder's Directory."

Stringent Milk Laws.

The better class of dairymen in the West are up in arms against the fraud of adulteration practiced by their less conscientious brethren. The form of a statute has been agreed upon, which it is thought will hold in the Courts, and this will be made the basis of a good deal of legislation during the coming year. It imposes the penalty of a fine, or imprisonment, or both, to any one who shall, (1) for the purpose of sale for human food, adulterate milk with water or other foreign substance; (2) or sell for human food milk adulterated with water or any foreign substance; (3) or sell for human food

milk from which cream has been taken, without the purchaser thereof being informed or knowing the fact; (4) or sell for human food milk from which what is commonly called "strippings" has been withheld, without the purchaser thereof being informed or knowing the fact; (5) or sell for human food milk drawn from a diseased cow, knowing her to be so diseased as to render her milk unwholesome; (6) or sell for human food milk so tainted or corrupted as to be unwholesome; (7) or supply or bring to be manufactured into any substance for human food, to any cheese or butter factory or creamery, without all interested therein knowing or being informed of the fact, milk adulterated with water or any foreign substance, or milk from which cream has been taken, or milk from which what is commonly called "strippings" has been withheld, or milk drawn from a diseased cow, knowing her to be so diseased as to injure her milk, or milk so tainted or corrupted as to be unwholesome; (8) or, with the intent to defraud, take from milk after it has been delivered to a cheese or butter factory or creamery, to be manufactured into any substance for human food, for and on account of the persons supplying the milk, cream, or shall with like intent knowingly add any foreign substance to the milk, whereby it or the product thereof shall become unwholesome for human food.—*Evening Post.*

A sale of Shorthorns took place in the park at Dundas. Only a few stock-men knew of it. The highest price paid was \$155.

A farmer in Montgomery county asks us why it is that oxen after they have been used for years at hard work, make the beef so much superior to young bullocks which have never been used to the yoke? The answer is very simple. When oxen are stall-fed every pound weight they gain is new flesh, so that by the time they are ready for the butcher they furnish almost an entire new carcass, sweet, juicy and tender. Young cattle never take on fat so readily while they are growing, and hence their meat becomes so solid, tender or juicy. Tender it frequently is, but it is dry and spongy and possesses but little flavor.

M. Chatot recommends common salt as an antidote for mildew on vines. By sprinkling a handful of salt around the base of each vine the effect, he says, was marvelous; and vines hitherto covered with the fungus grew luxuriantly, and had an abundance of grapes entirely free from oidium.

When planted in very rich soil, tomatoes often produce much wood and little fruit. The best crop of tomatoes I ever saw was furnished by main stems as free from side growth as a walking-stick. All growths except the leaves and flowers attached to the principal stem had been pinched off as they appeared.

A good compost for common house plants can be made up of one part clean sand, free from salt; one part mould from thoroughly decayed leaves; one part cow manure, well rotted and pulverized; two parts rich garden soil, or better, well-decayed turf mould. About one-fifth of the pot may be filled with materials for drainage, composed of oyster shells, charcoal, or broken bits of pots or crockery. A small quantity of moss placed over these prevents the earth from washing through.

HOW TO SET A GATE POST THAT WON'T SAG.—I will suppose the gate when shut to hang to the west side of the post—opening southward; dig the post-hole at least three feet deep, flatten the east and west sides of the post (the part in the ground); nail a short board, say 10 by 12 inches, on the east side even with the bottom of the post; put in the post, placing it where you want it; fill in the dirt and beat it down thoroughly till within sixteen inches of the top; then take a two inch-board, 16 by 24 inches, nail it on the west side of the upper edge even with the top of the ground, and one like it on the south side, 16 inches long. Fill up and pack the dirt well, and my experience is that your post will not sag.—*Correspondence Indiana Farmer.*

PARASITES IN SHEEP.—During a recent lecture, Professor Cressy spoke of the strongylus or thread worms of sheep, a species of insect but little known in this country, though he had discovered them in a flock owned by Mr. H. L. Stewart of Connecticut, and had described them in his second annual report to the Governor of that state. Spirits of turpentine, given in milk, had helped sheep affected with this parasite. The blue knots often noticed on the intestines of sheep are the burying-grounds of parasitic insects.

In this city many gentlemen have had wind-mills erected by Mr. Cousins for watering their gardens and lawns, and house purposes. Many farmers would find it a great advantage in using them where water has to be pumped for their needs.

SCREENS.—Mr. E. Moody said at the Rochester Horticultural meeting that he found screens of trees of much value to some of his fruit plantations. In his garden he gets abundant crops of Frauconia raspberry, except where there is an opening in the screen which surrounds it. He has known peaches to be killed on the windward side of a screen and to escape on the other side.

FINE CATTLE.—Mr. Price, of the firm of Reeves & Price, shipped on SS. "Dominion" last week five magnificent specimens of cattle, one, a six-year-old white Durham ox, weighing 3,000 lbs. Another white roan, three-year-old heifer weighs 2,150 lbs.; both having been fed at Guelph. The finest of the five is a four-year-old red and white steer, fed in Toronto, which weighs 3,100 lbs., and is fatter in proportion than either of the others. There is also a pair of red and white grade six-year-old steers, fed in Stanstead county, whose joint weight is 5,500 lbs. The firm propose to exhibit the cattle in some of the principal agricultural centres of England before disposing of them finally.

No less than seven suits in reference to lightning rods were tried at the Guelph Chancery Court on the 4th inst. They were brought to recover notes given to the Ontario Lightning Rod Company, and John and Robert McDougall, of Galt, on the ground that the notes were obtained by fraud. The plaintiffs were principally from Garafraxa and Eramosa townships. The cases were all settled by the defendants giving back the notes to the farmers and paying \$250 costs.

Jottings by the Way.

Millions of sheep are dying of starvation in Australia, in consequence of excessive drought.

The grasshoppers have blasted the hopes of many farmers in the Western States. Before their approach, the fields are rich with the promise of spring; after them, all is as a bare desert.

Forest fires is again the news in season. From New York, in the Northern States, and Michigan in the West, come reports of forests and crops being burned up by the thousands of acres. Is there no way to prevent these annual conflagrations?

Thousands of Indians and Chinese are starving in California, the land of gold. San Franciscans are perishing from want of food.

A reporter of a Detroit daily paper says he saw a rattlesnake, four feet long, crawl out of a load of hay that was standing in the hay market.

A specimen of the seventeen-year locusts is described as a savage-looking insect, about two inches long, with claws like a mole, a head like a black bean, and, probably, an appetite like a bohemoth. He was found in a hill of corn, on a farm in Michigan, in a field of several acres, which had nearly all been destroyed, and had all to be replanted.

The currant worm has been troublesome in New England, as we have found it in Canada. The squash and cucumber vines are injured by a small, yellow bug. Caterpillars are also very abundant. The late rains have lessened the number of potato bugs.

Another Indian war in the States—Indians killing white men, and white men killing Indians. Meantime, Sitting Bull and his followers have taken refuge in British territory.

The most disastrous fire in the annals of St. John, N. B., was that of June 20th. Public buildings, palaces of commerce, churches, banks, splendid residences, newspaper and telegraph offices, school houses, were all laid in ruins in a few hours. The post-office, the custom house, every wharf in the city, fourteen churches, have been destroyed. Fifteen thousand are without a home. The estimated loss is \$20,000,000, and the insurance about \$10,000,000. Thirty bodies have been recovered from the ruins, and as many more are missing.

In Kentucky there has lately been a fight between the "Vigilance Committee" and a number of horse thieves. There were fifty or sixty men engaged, and four or five are reported killed. Both parties had their commanders.