

chaser. When real fat beef will fetch four pence per pound, beef bones will generally sell for three pence, and thus a care-less, indifferent system has become established, and so long as the butcher will pay a good price for the early, well fed calves, they are sold, and the meanest only are raised, because no one would purchase them. The milk is soon required for the dairy, and the pigs call loudly for it, and the poor little calves are turned off perhaps in a poor pasture, to drag out a miserable existence through their whole growth, which is sure to be a small one at last.

Every farmer who raises calves, should take particular notice of their appearance at first, and he will not fail to see something indicative of a thrifty, good feeding animal, or something indicative of debility or disease.

In the latter case he should never attempt to raise such an animal. The calf that when young, show a vigorous constitution, thrives quick, has a straight limb, straight back, a small round tail, and a full eye, is worth raising. Let it have milk until it is fat, and two months old; then it will continue fat in a good pasture, and with only ordinary food, will probably continue fat until full grown—be a handsome and large animal, and produce a far superior breed to the stock it sprang from. Of this I have been fully satisfied by experience.

The celebrated Durham breed has been produced on the Durham Estate, by judicious selection and careful feeding, and in this County a calf, for which the second premium was obtained at our Cattle Show in 1842, became a milch cow at the age of fourteen months and three days, and the calf that obtained the first premium, is able to compete with any we have yet imported from Great Britain. It is worthy of notice as well as very amusing to read of the Yankee Clock Pedlar purchasing an indifferent calf, and selling it in a remote neighborhood, in an indirect way for a superior breed imported from England, to a wealthy farmer for one hundred dollars. The farmer thinking it a great prize, set it unsparingly, and by that means it became a beautiful large animal, and long sustained the character of an improved breed in the neighborhood, to the great satisfaction and amusement of

A FARMER.

LETTER VIII.

On Swine.—Much advantage may be derived from feeding Swine, providing it is done with economy and care, and the pork is not hurried off to market in the autumn, to be sold at 2d. or 3d. per lb. If the Swine are well fattened they weigh well and pay well; and it would be a mere burlesque on the farmers of New Brunswick to admit that they will ever allow their Pork again to be lavished away in the fall in such a discouraging manner. Until the Province is well supplied, while American Pork will fetch 19 dollars in our market every friend to the Province should prefer New Brunswick pork at 20 dollars.

But turning from the market to the farm, and recollecting the great improvement in the breed within the last thirty years, I conclude little is now wanting in further improvement excepting a judicious selection and careful feeding. In the first place the farmer should look through the Parish for the best stock, and then by feeding a litter of pigs together in the same pen for five or six months he need not be at a loss to discover that some are of superior size and form to the rest. Let him select them from his stock, take them from the rest, and give them with common feed a little range of the field or pasture, to improve their strength and complete their growth.

Farmers are differently situated with respect to their opportunities or advantages for raising pork. Some have excellent natural pastures, where swine will thrive through the summer with very little feed. Such farmers may raise pork as cheap as beef; others have large dairies, and feed on the milk and whey which would otherwise be useless. Such may also deal largely in swine; but those who have to feed chiefly upon merchantable potatoes and grain should keep but few and feed them well.

Swine either in a pasture or sty should have a comfortable bed and shelter from the storm. They should be so domesticated as not to be in fear of man, and also accustomed to the curry comb and brush occasionally.

To give pigs plenty of litter is to accumulate and save excellent manure.

Every farmer should have a yard of Mangel Wurtzel near his swine in order to furnish them conveniently with the tops before the potatoes are ready for digging, and when the pigs have grown so large that they require more milk than can be spared them. This serves well to keep the pigs in good health and growing, but toward the close of fattening they require more substantial diet:—potatoes or other vegetables either boiled or steamed—grain of different kinds, (if ground it's preferable,) shorts or bran; and great care should be taken to change the feed to suit the animal's taste. If kept in a close pen, charcoal or rotten wood is very useful, and the pigs will devour them greedily.

Great care should be taken to keep the pigs tranquil and never allow them to be hungry, always remembering that while they are not improving we lose all we give them.

Some young porkers arrive at the weight of 300 pounds at the age of three months, and some that grow very large do not fatten well the first year. These answer well for a good pasture the second summer, and are wintered the first winter with little expense.

Swine are allowed to be very obstinate animals, and to be "contrary as a hog" is a common simile among farmers; but this has arisen from their being so seldom handled. They are, in fact, more tractable than almost any other quadruped, will more readily submit to the halter, and attend to the command of the driver, and may be taught that which hardly any other animal can; and the more quiet and secure they feel in their sty the better they will thrive. Their natural instinct is so great that when pigs have been purchased at a month old, and carried away a considerable distance in a bag, they have frequently escaped and returned home, and have been known to swim a river on their return.

As we annually import pork from the United States, I would observe that the New-England States cannot compete with New-Brunswick in raising pork. Notwithstanding their long established habits of agriculture, they, like ourselves, import pork and flour from the western States for the use of their fishermen and manufacturers. In the western States swine thrive well in the forest or in extensive pastures upon the various kinds of mts which abound there; but the flesh of such swine is rancid and oily, and I am often astonished that the American Pork generally should be considered equal to that of our own Province. It may indeed be strong, healthy food for them who are compelled to use it, and being less palatable a less quantity may be eaten, but the taste and smell is so disgusting to those accustomed to better meat, that I have frequently been much