

Dickens says: "The part of the holding of a farmer or landowner which pays best for cultivation is the small estate within the ring fence of his skull." It is chiefly this small estate to which the winter leasure should be devoted.

It is believed that the manufacturers and sellers of farm implements do not take it very hard when they see a reaper or mower, plough or seed-drill standing through the storms of winter by the roadside or in the field where it was last used.

Among the curious stories told of the natives of India is one to the effect that, in the neighbourhood of Bomby, some ploughs which had been imported from England are regarded, not as instruments, but as the gods of agriculture, and are preserved in a temple as objects of vayer.

Mr. Mechi, the great English farmer, says his experience has taught him that "land can never be too rich, even for wheat or other cereals, provided the manure has been applied for a previous crop. It is the sowing of too much seed that causes crops to be prematurely laid in well fertilized soils."

Adam Rankin, Monmouth, Ill., received premiums from State and Agricultural Societies on five acres of corn raised by him the past season. The yield was 575 bushels, worth 45 cents a bushel, or \$258.75. The total expense, including rent of ground, was \$86.50, leaving a net profit of \$172.25.

H. W. Beecher says that the "only way to exterminate the Canada thistle is to plant it for crop, and propose to make money out of it. Then worms will gnaw it, bugs will bite it, beetles will bore it, aphides will suck it, birds will pick it, heat will scorch it, rains will drown it, and mildew and blight will cover it."

The Monthly Report of the Agricultural Department publishes a statement from Mr. G. B. Loss, of Boone Co., Ill., showing the time of commencing sowing and harvesting wheat, oats, and corn in that vicinity for all the years from 1837 to 1868. The average time of commencing sowing wheat was April 1, of harvesting July 1; of oats April 12, July 26; of corn May 10, October 14.

Marl may be applied in two modes; burned lime, or in the natural state, but dried so as powder. The marl should be dug, and thrown to dry and disintegrate for several months before it is applied. It possesses the very inefficient (phosphate of lime) in which our oldest heat soils are becoming deficient. One ton of marl, properly dried and pulverized, is said to be sufficient for an acre if evenly spread over, where an abundance of the article is available, several tons per acre may be applied with good effect.

FALL WHEAT.—The fields are now sufficiently covered of snow to give the farmers some idea of the state of the fall wheat, and the majority report that in all parts of the Niagara peninsula, the crop never promised better. The wheat

presents a very healthy and strong appearance, and there is good reason to believe that the yield this year will be much better than last. The loss from winter killing will be almost nothing, while the midge has been kept on such short allowance of food for some years, that very little fears are entertained of serious damage from its ravages.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

PLOUGHING.—The *California Farmer*, which paper, by the way, was sixteen years old on the 21st of January, is in high spirits over the opening agricultural prospects for 1869, in that famous Golden State. Here what it says about ploughing:—"Never has a country, new or old, seen such activity among the ploughmen, nor even such furrows turned up to the sun, as has been seen in California within the last few weeks. What would the farmers of the east say to see the furrows of our grain planters one, two, and three miles long, straight as an arrow, and to see ten, twenty, forty, or one hundred sets of ploughs in our own grand valleys all at work at the same time, some single owners having forty "Gang Ploughs," two, four, or six ploughs at work. Let our eastern farmers come here, and we will show them such ploughing scenes as they never dreamed of before, where our farmers are preparing the soil for the seed, on farms of 300 and 500 acres each, or 2000 to 10,000 acres; this is what we call *ploughing*."

The Live Stock.

SHORT HORN ITEMS.

We learn from Mr. M. H. Cochrane, of Compton, Q., that he has recently sold a very promising young bull, "Captain Graham" by name, to Major Greig, of Beachville, Ont. He was dropped during the voyage from England in August last, and is therefore about eight months old. We understand that he is a young bull of high promise, and judging from his pedigree which we subjoin, there is good foundation for promise. It will be seen that beside other points of excellence in his parentage, there are two "Windsor" crosses to be put to his credit. We welcome young "Captain Graham" to the Province of Ontario, and wish his owner much joy of him, and much profit out of him. The pedigree referred to is as follows:—

CAPTAIN GRAHAM.—Red and White, calved August 27th, 1868. Imported by and the property of M. H. Cochrane, Compton, Quebec, Canada, from the stock of Mr. Bruere, Yorkshire, England. Got by the Prince of the Realm, E. H. B., (22627)