

## THE ARMY WORM IN 1770.

The Rev. Grant Power, of N. H. in his Historical Sketches of that State, says that in the summer of 1770 an army of worms extended from Lancaster, N. H., the shire town of Coos county to Northfield, Mass., almost the whole length of the Granite State. They began to appear in the latter part of July, and continued their ravages until September. They then were called the Northern Army, as they seemed to advance from the north or north-west to the south. It was not known that they passed the highlands between the rivers Connecticut and Merrimack. Dr. Burton, of Thetford, Vt., informed the author that he had seen the pastures so covered with them that he could not put down his finger without touching a worm, remarking that "he had seen more than ten bushels in a heap." They were unlike anything that generation had ever seen. There was a stripe of yellow, from end to end, and the rest of the body was brown. They were seen not longer than a pin, but in maturity were as long as a man's finger, and of proportionate thickness. They appeared to be in great haste, except when they halted to feed. They entered the houses of the people and came up into the kneading-troughs as did the frogs in Egypt. They went up the sides of houses, and over them in such compact columns that nothing of the boards or shingles could be seen. Pumpkin vines, peas, potatoes and flax escaped their ravages, but wheat and corn disappeared before them as if by magic. Fields of corn in Haverhill and Newberry meadows, so thick that a man could hardly be seen a rod distant, were in ten days entirely depopulated by the Northern Army." Trenches were dug around fields a foot deep, as a defence, but they were soon filled, and the millions in the rear passed on, and took possession of the interdicted feed. Another expedient was resorted to. Trenches were cut, and then sticks six inches in diameter were sharpened and used to make holes in the bottom of the trenches within two or three feet of one another, to the depth of two or three feet in the bottom lands, and when these holes were filled with worms, the stick was plunged into the holes, thus destroying the vermin. In this way some corn was saved. About the 1st of September, the worms suddenly disappeared. Where or how they terminated their career is unknown, for not the carcass of a worm was seen. Had it not been for pumpkins, which were exceedingly abundant, and potatoes, the people would have greatly suffered for food. As it was, great privation was felt on account of the loss of grass and grain.

**SOFT WATER FOR HORSES.**—Youatt, in his book, entitled "The Horse," says this animal will never drink hard water if soft is within reach; that he will leave clear, transparent hard water for a pool or stream of soft, even though the latter be discolored with mud. Very cold water from the well, will make the hair rise up, and not unfrequently cause an attack of gripes. Give soft water when practicable, especially if the animal be ailing.

Hope and strive is the way to thrive.

## THE CATTLE DISEASE.

MR. EDITOR,—As an old country farmer of many year's experience, and moreover, having been an Inspector of cattle, under the Cattle Disease Act recently in force in England, perhaps the result of my experience may not be thought amiss by your readers, now, that this Continent is threatened with an attack; and I would wish to premise my remarks by saying: that in the old country, in acting as one of the Inspectors of my own district, saw frequent cases of the late terrible disease that has decimated the Stock there, known as the Rinderpest; but from the account I have read, as well as from enquiries I have made, the symptoms of the disease here, all point me to a conclusion, that this complaint, is not what has been raging in Europe, but one almost equally bad, although not so likely to be communicated in such simple, and extraordinary ways as the Rinderpest was in England. The disease we have to contend with here, is known as that of Pleura Pneumonia. This complaint is usually generated in hot dry weather, and is always most prevalent in very warm and dry seasons. The disease is highly contagious, that is of cattle inoculating one and the other, and by inducing inflammation, the throat swells considerably, and unless prompt and active measures are resorted to, the disease will terminate fatally. This disease is common to Great Britain and prevails over the entire continent of Europe. It is found to attack most frequently, those animals in high condition, and is variable in its form according to the heat of the season, condition of the body, and the local situation. This disease has carried off more cattle (except the Rinderpest) than any disease known. Happily however, the disease is not communicated from Black cattle to any other. The first symptoms which manifest themselves in this complaint are shivering, accompanied by trembling of the limbs, and sinking of the flanks. The animal has a disinclination to eat, and when it does so, the neck is awkwardly stretched out, and its actions exhibit the utmost difficulty in swallowing its food, by shaking and hanging down its head and ears, which is generally accompanied with deafness, in consequence of the swelling of the throat, pressing against the auditory apparatus. If the disease is attended by depression, it will be indicated by dullness, and a languid appearance of the eyes, if accompanied by fever, the eyes are inflamed and sparkling, and move rapidly about in all directions. During the first two days of the disease, the fever never abates, and invariably rises and increases considerably towards evening. The pulse is unequal and irregular, with considerably quickened

speed, accompanied with scouring, foetid, green color dung. The breath is exceedingly offensive, and the skin emits a stinking effluvia, which taints the surrounding atmosphere. The animal staggers, its coat is staring, its flesh wastes away, the discharge from the nostrils is sanious, and death ends the scene.

This disease sometimes appears in the form of a malignant epidemic, sweeping away the cattle of whole districts, and in fact spreading over whole countries. Such was the dreadful murrain in the middle of the 18th century which depopulated the fields of England, and baffled all attempts to cure. This disease is said to have been first traced from Italy, through France, Germany, and Holland, and thence to England. In 1745, more than 200,000 head perished in Holland. In 1747, more than 40,000 cattle died in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and 30,000 died in Cheshire in a half year. From the earliest ages indeed, this murrain has been known. It was by this, that the cattle of Egypt died as narrated in Exodus. Homer describes a similar pestilence, during the siege of Troy, which extended its influence to man. It is noticed by various Greek and Roman writers. From time to time it has appeared during what is called the middle ages, and has continued to break out at intervals, in different kingdoms of Europe to this day.

Of the remedies tried, some most absurd, childish, and superstitious, we need say nothing, as none was found to avail. What I always recommend was this, great cleanliness, good wholesome food, and in case any of our readers should have the misfortune to have their stock attacked, to be sure to separate them from the sound at once, and be careful that none of the hay, straw, or bedding that the diseased animal has touched, come in contact with the healthy ones. And moreover, let them be cautious to have this carefully removed and burnt, and keep the ground and the house where the diseased may be confined, well diluted with chloride of lime. By following these instructions carefully, they may prevent its communication extending, and in case of any animal dying, bury it deeply, cover the body with quick lime. These are the only remedies, that has proved itself able to prevent the spreading of this ruinous and fearful disease. May none of your readers be visited with this plague in their herds, is the wish of

Yours Truly,

PLOUGHTAIL.

Should any of our readers wish it, we will on receipt of \$1 forward them a recipe for medicines, together with full instructions how to act and treat animals infected, from one of the most expert farrier's in England, and which remedy cured more cattle, where promptly applied, than any other known.—Ed.