

power to acquire any of them which we have not. Our progress may not have been so rapid hitherto, as in the United States, but nevertheless, we have no cause for dissatisfaction at our present position, and we confidently hope Canada will now make ample amends for any time she may have lost, and we wish her *God speed*.

*To the Editor of the Agricultural Journal.*

SIR,—As it is my utmost desire to see the farmers in general improve in their system of rearing and feeding their young stock of swine and cattle, which I am sorry to say in this part are so miserably attended to, for instance, look in any of their fields as you travel past, and the first object that strikes your attention are a few half-starved calves, which are not larger than the day they were dropped; as also their pigs, for at every house, you see them more resembling a pigmy race of starved grey-hounds than that of pigs, and there is nothing that will repay the farmer at this present moment, or bring him quicker returns in cash, than feeding pork for the market; for instance, you see the usual practice in the country is to let the spring pigs run at large in a miserable field till the snow falls, with no other food but what they can find to graze off said field, and then they are left to sleep out, exposed to the cold winter's bleak winds, and without, most part of the time, any place to sleep but the manure heaps, and fed with such food as is convenient to the farmer, and in a very scanty proportion; and, if fed at all, it is only to keep them in existence till the second Autumn, when they are put up to fatten, and in the course of 60 or 90 days, are fed off and slaughtered, which, during this brief period, they gain about 50 per cent more of dressed weight than in the fifteen or eighteen months preceding, nor even then do they yield a greater weight than is attained by the same pigs, had they been well and reasonably fed from weaning to the age of seven to nine months, as innumerable instances could be adduced of pigs of that age dressing 200 lbs., and of improved breeds weighing up to 300 lbs.; but the pig that matures and is slaughtered at seven months, or even nine, has only a moderate capacity for eating, as during the early stages of his growth, his size, and the consequent inca-

capacity of the digestive organs prevent the consumption of the same quantity which the larger animal requires, and his accumulating fat, his limited respiration, consequent upon the compression of his lungs, and his disposition to exercise, all conspire to keep the consumption of food within the smallest possible limits. The result, in the absence of any experiment, must be conjectural entirely; but I believe that experiments will show that of two thrifty pigs from the same litter, one of which is properly fed to his utmost capacity for seven months, and the other fed with precisely double the quantity of food for twenty-one months, the first will yield more carcass and of a better and more profitable quality than the latter, which has consumed 100 per cent. the most, the food being only one item in this calculation, as the oldest requires the most attention, is liable to more accidents and diseases, besides the loss of interest, as, generally speaking, the greater part of the pork that is so miserably fed, and has experienced such severe privations from what I call nothing but starvation and constant exposure to all seasons, is more or less affected with that disgusting disease called measles; and in my opinion, all such fed pork is anything but sovereign for humanity to feed on. Such, Mr. Editor, is the opinion and experience I have had, and have come to the conclusion, that by far the cheapest mode of wintering pigs, is in the pork barrel. Perhaps we can readily anticipate one objection the farmers may have of the before-mentioned practice, is the want of food at the season the pigs are farrowed, but I should say this can be easily obviated by reserving enough of the previous year's grain to keep the animal in a thriving state till the next crop matures sufficiently to feed. What I wish to prove, Mr. Editor, to the farmer is for his own benefit, and the saving of time and extra expense, for if every farmer kept one or a couple of good breeding sows over the winter to give them a good litter of early pigs, and those pigs treated as I have before described, they will find it a saving to their purses of at least fifty per cent. I speak, Mr. Editor, from experience, and not from the mere idle fancy of scribbling these few lines, for I have made the experiment myself. I have at the present moment, spring pigs weighing over 200 lbs., and when slaughtered in six weeks hence, trust they will dress 250 lbs. As the best means, I have come to the conclusion of in