

hear from some of your scientific gentlemen in your Province on that point. My opinion is that when green manure is ploughed into the earth, and there decays, that odour is taken up by the inorganised matter for the purpose of decaying that also. There is a portion of mineral substances required for plants, and that portion varies in their kinds, and when this decaying agent is absent, and there is a scarcity of these ingredients in the soil, and those waiting for time to decompose, the plant is deficient in them; but if there is an over abundance of this steam, which is the case when the soil is full of vegetable matter, and not sufficient absorbents to exhaust it, it evaporates and contaminates the atmosphere, and when there it is destructive to the human race, if kept constantly in contact with it. Probably Mr. Editor, I shall be called an *ignoramus* by some of your *learned* gents for thus advancing my opinion, for it is all my own imagination, none of it gleaned from *false science*. If I am in error, it will be corrected by their proof to the contrary.

Yours, &c.,

WM. HY. SOTHAM.

REMARKS.—Mr. Sotham's inquiries shall receive attention from ourselves or some of our correspondents. In the meantime we recommend him to peruse "*Norton's Elements of Scientific Agriculture*," in which he will find much light thrown upon the points mooted in his communication, and most of his difficulties removed. We think that if he would take a little more pains to make himself acquainted with the leading facts and doctrines of Chemical and Physiological Science, he would see satisfactory ground for expecting valuable aid from these sources to practical Agriculture. Counterfeit coin only shows more clearly the necessity of a careful search for the *genuine* metal. We are obliged for the article, "*Herefords v. Short-horns*," written by our correspondent and published some time since in the *Mark Lane Express*,—its re-publication in our pages, in the present state of the controversy, would, we think, throw little or no additional light upon the matter in dispute. We look upon all attempts to settle such a question as which is the best breed, *per se*, of horned cattle, as utopian and impracticable. Short-horns, Devons, Herefords, Welsh, Scots, &c., &c., are each first-rate animals in all such situations as nature, aided by art, has adapted them to; and the specific purposes for which animals are bred, whether for labour, the shambles, or the dairy, or for all these,—are, with other considerations of a subordinate character, essential elements of all calculations of this nature. We are glad to learn that the

absurd practice of awarding a prize for *the best animal* (regardless of the breed) in the Smithfield Fat Cattle Show, is to be discontinued. The idea of grouping a Runt or West Highlander with a Hereford or a Durham! It would be just as reasonable to attempt settling which, in the abstract, is *the best breed of Dogs!* We are pleased to learn that Mr. Sotham considers his new locality more favourable to the improvement of his favourite herd of Herefords.

THE LATE PROPOSED PAMPHLET ON THE AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES OF CANADA.

Our readers will most probably remember, that a prospectus and subscription list was circulated through both sections of the Province last year, with a view to the publication of a little work on the above important subject; and it was the particular wish of the writer, who had taken much pains, and shewn equal discrimination in the collecting and arranging of his materials, that the work should be published previous to the prorogation of the Provincial Legislature. Unfortunately the proposal did not meet with a sufficiently encouraging response to justify the writer to proceed with the publication, although all he asked was a sufficient number of subscribers, at a mere nominal price, to cover the bare expense of paper and printing. As the appeal was made to the united Province, the result must be considered as any thing but creditable to our taste and public spirit. We are enabled thus to speak of the intended publication, as the writer some time since placed the manuscript in our hands for our perusal and opinion; and we yet hope that means will be found for bringing it before the public, and we embrace the present opportunity of urging the object on all enterprising individuals, as well as agricultural societies. With the writer's permission, we lay before our readers some extracts from a private letter received a short time since, which will show more clearly his views and intentions.

• MONTREAL, Nov. 29th, 1851.

MY DEAR SIR:—I was only favored with yours of the 18th instant, and think it as well to reply to it without further delay, as I find I have one or two things to gossip about.

Though I regret the delay that had taken place, I am of course quite satisfied with your explanation, and am sorry that sickness should have been one cause. I am also glad to find that you were on the whole pleased with the pamphlet,