

satisfied with anything less. Nor is it truth that consists simply of negatives that will satisfy the craving; it is truth that represents things really as they are. All men in their inner-selves have a strong respect for reality, although the outer man may be a daily worshipper at the shrine of sham and shoddy.

Saying only nice things about a herd or exhibit is simply adulation, and cannot but beget a suspicion in the mind of the reader that the whole truth has not been told. The whole number of perfect animals in any one herd or exhibit, however excellent these may be, may usually be counted on our finger tips, hence, if their strong points and favorable features of development only are referred to, there remains in the minds of the reader the impression that something has been kept back, and his estimate of the worth of the narrative will be weakened in proportion to the strength of the suspicion that he has only been told a part.

But while mankind will concede the correctness of our position in the general, apply it to them individually, and in instances not a few there will be sullen dissatisfaction, mutterings of discontent which take a whole year to reach the writer in their tortuous round-about journey, or the serious insinuation, conveyed through some sharply-worded epistle, that he is a respecter of persons, and that he is of that pitiable, contemptible material that has an eye to the yellow gold of the rich in preparing his descriptions.

Now, there surely is some better way for the aggrieved to adopt when any criticism in the columns of a periodical touches upon his work in a manner that may appear to him in the character of a misrepresentation. If his live-stock has been misrepresented in any way let him correct the misrepresentation in the same columns where it has been made. No editor worthy of the name will deny a man the chance of putting himself right before the public when a wrong has been done to him in any way through its columns. This is a manly, open course, and one that can not but meet with the commendation of a right-thinking public.

But few profitable descriptions of an exhibition have ever been written in this country, and they never will be written if the over-sensitiveness of the owners is not going to admit of the whole truth being told. If the writer simply calls this animal "good," the next "excellent," the third "perfect," and has only strong commendative superlatives to apply to the various objects that come beneath his notice, his narrative has more of sugar in it than strong meat, and will justly pass for what it is worth, a preparation that may be suitable for infants, but not at all adapted to strong men.

We have attempted a reform in this respect, but have been most hindered by the breeders who should be most anxious to further our effort. It has been our experience in the past that touching a weakness in any prize animal is about equivalent to taking a dog by the ears, or punishing a mother's only child. We have, therefore, to face the question, shall we in future bring out those infantile productions, or shall we instruct our reporters to give us a description of exhibitions that will mirror things just as they are. We do not hesitate to announce that we have decided upon the latter, and will adhere to it with an unshaken constancy of purpose.

We admit that the judgment of a writer may err, and he may make a mistake, for even good judges of stock differ in their opinions. We grant that such a mistake will be somewhat trying to the party most affected, but we affirm at the same time that in a manly, open way, the wrong should be righted

through the columns of the paper the medium in which it has been made.

It is important that public sentiment should be right on this matter, for it is an unfortunate fact that the press gives the public usually what they most crave for. It is this more than anything else that has made the press cater so largely to a popular love for narratives of crime. It is this more than anything else that has led to the degradation of that instrument, which can so highly elevate the people if rightly used. We call upon the breeders of Canada to sustain the effort that is being made to give to every one interested a fair, open, manly description of a live stock exhibition, rather than one made up of crumbled soda biscuit, water and sugar.

Shall the Farmer Breed Light or Heavy Horses?

With the advent of the steel girt-carrier the pessimist predicted the total extinction of its weaker rival, but he who had tasted of the pleasures of equine ownership smilingly listened, knowing as he did that as long as the well-oiled wheel would revolve or the smooth runner glide, so long would the horse contribute to the enjoyment of the purest of pleasures. Further, because of the bond of sympathy existing between the owner and the owned, the horse still continues to be employed under conditions perhaps more favorable to his compeer. A demand for horses still existing, the question at issue is, which shall the farmer raise?

We desire, firstly, to dispel the idea held by many that, when we speak of a light horse we mean no other than a trotter. We understand the latter to be a horse that can travel a mile inside of three minutes, no matter as to his size or appearance. He may be spavined and blind, but as long as he can go in good time with the aid of toe-weights, trotting-boots, etc., he is considered a trotter. This is far from our idea of a horse. We would be understood, however, as meaning by this term, a horse of 1,100 or 1,200 lbs., sound, symmetrical, and serviceable. He must be a free and easy mover, of straightforward action, but not losing time in recovery. In height he must be about 16 hands, with plenty of stylishness and well broken to saddle and harness. Add to this quality of bone and muscle, and our ideal stands before you, a high standard, we admit, but not unattainable. If a trotter fulfils these requirements, so much the better.

On the other hand it remains for us to define what we mean by a draught horse. In a word, a heavy, firm-boned, strongly-muscled and coupled, clean-acted horse of over 1,400 lbs. weight; square-set and with but little daylight to be seen under him. Couple with these a shoulder built for a collar, and a disposition suitable for a pull, and our description is finished. We think we are right in saying that the above described horses are the only two types that it will pay the farmer to breed, excepting he has special conditions or markets to satisfy. We recognise, as all fair thinkers must, that they have their places, and our endeavor is to find out the same.

Personal inclination is no doubt the first and most important consideration in deciding which shall be raised. This is uppermost in the minds of most men in such a matter, as the profits do not differ so much as to offer strong inducements to over-ride individual likings. It would be folly for a man whose ideal of horseflesh is the slow, but strong and sure draught horse, to raise a more vitalized type. Profit is not necessarily overlooked, but if any one takes a deep delight in any department, he, as a rule, con-

vinces himself that it will pay, regardless of outside expenses, and even stern facts. Some men, owing to their peculiarities, are specially fitted for the handling of heavy horses, while others would fret and worry incessantly if tied to such a team.

Other considerations bear more or less weight, as soil, market, surrounding conditions, etc. As to the soil, the statement is often made unguardedly that a light horse is better on a light soil than a heavy horse. We would modify this slightly by saying that a heavy horse is at home on a similar soil, and a light horse at his best on a light soil. It is obvious that for drawing loads and other heavy work of the farm, no matter if the soil is light or heavy, a team of good weight or substance is required. On the other hand, for the light work, and there is usually plenty of it on a farm of light soil, the more active horse works to better advantage. There is this thought in considering the amount of work that can be got out of each before selling, viz., that the draught horse is generally of a better disposition for farm work than the lighter classes. We think, however, that this, though largely hereditary in some families, is due in the majority of cases, to improper care and training at the right time. A horse of poor brain development, be he light or heavy, will not be of a kindly disposition. The moral code of all the lower animals, is framed as a rule, according to the treatment they receive.

In regard to the market, though the balance of trade may be in favor of the draught horse, yet we do not think breeders of the others have any reason for discouragement.

The surrounding conditions other than soil and market, have but a slight influence. We refer more particularly to the nature of the land, whether rolling or level, and in a lesser degree the climatic conditions. A humid, moist atmosphere, and its attendant coarse herbage is certainly more suitable for the development of bulk, while on the other hand the higher rolling lands and drier climate is more conducive to production of quality of bone and muscle.

We hear it very often stated that the breeding of draught horses and their care requires less attention than those of a lighter stamp. As it is followed in some districts such is truly the case, but all true stockmen will agree with us in saying it is a lame argument, and one begotten of carelessness and shiftlessness. Importation and fattening qualities go a long way in the eyes of some, but not for much in the estimation of the discriminating breeder. Deficiencies of body and unsoundness of limb can be more easily hidden in the case of the draught horse, and this no doubt leads some to the conclusion that they are easier to breed. Perhaps we do not err much in saying that there is more scope for the hand, eye, and judgment of the breeder, to exercise their power of discrimination in the breeding of the draught horse than in any other.

The Shallows Past.

Agriculture has always had alternations of prosperity and adversity, and possibly this may continue down to the end of time. From 1795 to 1815 British agriculture flourished as never before. Then came a time of depression, deep, prolonged and severe, when everything pertaining to agriculture languished. Another period of revival followed, and now stagnation broods over the wonderful little island, darker than the mists which so often shroud its bosom from the sunlight of heaven.

So has it been in America. In 1812 wool sold for \$2.50 per pound, and in 1815 following, pure-bred sheep were sold in some instances for \$1 per head. The year 1837 marked another period of great de-