

which is skimmed in the morning and added to the morning's meal. The letter quoted is from the writer's brother, whose tenants' farms are all on the banks of the Severn, in the Vale of Gloucester :

HILL COURT, Oct. 18th, 1899.

My Dear,— In reply to your question about the price of cheese during the months of August, September and October, none of my tenants make Cheddar, and there is usually little of it at Berkeley market. Of what they call *thin-cheese*, their usual make, the following were the prices in

August	September	October
£2.2	£2.16	£3.3 (2)

This has been a queer season. Though the hay-crop was plentiful, the after-grass came very short. The meadows at last look green, but more fit for sheep than cows. Several of my tenants have taken to selling milk in the towns of Thornbury and Berkeley, as they find it pays better than making cheese.

We have been pretty well off for apples, though some are small, and the high winds and the birds have knocked them about. As for vegetables, barring *scarlet-runners*, they have been a failure. Good luck to you all,

From your affectionate brother,

H. J.-F.

The land in question is of superb quality and the cheese is very good indeed, as it need be for "half-skims" to fetch the price quoted. The tenants are all large cider-makers, so the loss of the apple-crop will hurt them considerably, though with cheese at 63s., they can stand it. The rent, titles, and rates on such property come to something like \$'5.00 an acre, and the cows average nearly 500 lbs. of cheese each a season. All meadow-land and riverside pasture, except about 4% of arable land.

*Bacon*, we are glad to see, appears to be returning, in some slight degree, to its old terms, the difference between fair qualities of "lean sizable" and "fat stout" being only 3s. a cwt., equal to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cent a pound. Was *lean* meat ever *tender* meat? If you must have lean bacon, you will surely have lean hams, and a lean ham is, an abomination.

(2) Best full-cream Cheddar was selling for 74s. a cwt. (112 lbs) in November. Ep.

*The mangel-crop*.—The swedes and early turnips being but poor crops, this season, in England, farmers are naturally anxious to make the best use possible of their mangels, which, as is natural in such a hot dry summer, have turned out well.

Now, we recollect well that it was always held in our English days that feeding stock on mangels in the early part of the season was likely to produce diarrhoea, commonly called, then, scouring. It seems, from experiments, lately conducted by Voelcker, the chemist to the R. Agr. Soc., that this effect is only to be feared when the root is given too copiously. The results are as follows :

(1) That well-ripened mangels, in moderate quantities, say, from 28 to 30 pounds a head, per diem, may take the place of swedes in the food of fattening beasts, if cotton-cake, bean meal, or plenty of long hay be also given. (2) That if the quantity of mangels given reaches 35 lbs. to 40 lbs., scouring will probably soon appear. (3) That, though the giving of long hay at that time will not check the scouring, the giving of undecorticated cotton-cake and bean-meal will soon stop it.

In September, 1855, we were looking over the stock of Mr. James Webb, of Calcot, near Reading, Berkshire, when we observed that Parry, his very intelligent farm-bailiff, afterwards in charge of the Prince Consort's farm at Windsor was giving two charming Devon steers, preparing for the great Xmas show of the Smithfield Club, a moderate ration of recently pulled long red mangels. We rather demurred to his assertion that he always found they did well on them even when in such an immature state; but, as the two steers both won a "Highly Commended" ticket at the show, we came to the conclusion that Parry was about right. The steers were eating plenty of bean-meal, but cotton cake was not in common use in those days, so we suppose linseed-cake was being used; at all events, if the beasts had scoured, Parry was shrewd enough to have stopped the mangels at once: he was one of the best farmers of heavy land we ever saw.

*Sheep*.—Mutton is growing daily more and more into favour in the States. If our farmers would only grow *rape*, what a lot of profit they would make by sending mutton to that country. Wool is very low in price, but mutton sells well, so Downs and Half-breds are the kinds to keep.