

available for breeding purposes. It is otherwise with these can never be so well obtained as on the farm, and at an age when boys are intermingling driving the cows and hoeing turnips with hunting birds nests and chasing squirrels. It is when the foundation has thus been firmly laid in the school of practice that the experimental school holds out her hand and lifts the lad to a higher plane by imparting her great budget of scientific truths. He takes these back to the farm, and during the rest of his life feels grateful to his parents for having sent him to the agricultural college.

It is a matter of great moment that the above illusion be dispelled. If the Ontario Agricultural College is intended to benefit the farming community and through it the whole country, the students roll should mainly consist of the names of the sons of our sturdy farmers. The sooner it is understood the better for all concerned, that our Agricultural College is not maintained to afford an asylum for incapables from other lands. Gentlemen who have lost all control of their sons themselves should not be so inconsiderate as to expect our college authorities to control them, and to transform them into useful Canadian farmers. We believe our professors can do a good deal, but they cannot accomplish this. It should not be expected of them. It would not be wise to shut the door against foreigners altogether. It would be an injustice to those of them who are desirous of learning, but those who are only expert at assisting in shaving the uninitiated with a dull knife, and knocking them down with the boxing gloves, should certainly be moved away, and that very speedily, to try their experiments elsewhere.

We shall also express here our conviction that it is inverting the order in every case to send a student first to the college who has had no practical experience on the farm. He should, without a doubt, go from the farm to the school. A business man sometimes sends his son, wholly unused to manual labor, to the Experimental Farm, where he puts in his full term, and he is then sent to the farm, where, in nine cases out of ten, the practical labor of every day farm life is so much more severe than he expected, that in disgust he forever turns away from one of the noblest of earth's pursuits.

The young man who goes from the farm to the school has a much better idea of the relative importance of the different studies, and can at once determine upon which his energies should be concentrated. Business men who wish their sons to be farmers should first send them to the farm, and give them early a good taste of their future lifework.

The rank and file farmer is the man who can reap the richest legacy from the existence of our college, and we hope that such will realize the advantages of their position. Many of this class fancy that their sons will get along as well as those who avail themselves of the advantages of the school. We say to them plainly, other things being equal, *they will not*, as in agriculture "knowledge is power," as in everything else, and we say it as a friend.

Many farmers know so little of the true objects of the school, and of what it is doing, that they have a very inadequate idea of its worth. They have only viewed it through the glasses of some neighbor no better informed than themselves. If such would send for and examine its curriculum and read its annual reports with a jealous care, and above all go down and visit the school itself, they could not but concede that it is one of the useful institutions that this country cannot afford to do without. It is the sons of such men who are most wanted at the Experimental Farm, and who in turn most want the benefit of its teachings,

but we say again send off those scapegraces whose highest ambition is to enjoy a good dinner at noon, and to torment the professors the rest of the day. In this way the streams of science in agriculture and practice will most readily and speedily converge, and flow on harmoniously through many a distinguished life, which otherwise would have been shrouded in an unbroken obscurity.

FOR THE CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

Thoroughbred Brood Mares.

It is only a few weeks ago that horsemen, whether those having at heart the improvement of our Canadian breeds, or those practically interested in the turf, heard with dismay that an agent of Mr. Pierre Lorillard, the American who won the English Derby with Iroquois, was buying up mares in Canada, especially those of the War Dance and Australian families. Mr. Fletcher, an Englishman resident at the city of Mexico, had taken away a year or two ago from Woodstock the imported mare Castaway, and one of her daughters, with the stallion Princeton, meaning to establish a breeding association in that distant country. Now, Castaway had produced the gray mare Lady D'Arcy, one of the best Province-bred animals seen in Ontario; Roderick, now in Mr. Montagu Allan's stable at Montreal, beautiful as a picture, and Roddy Pringle, a winner of the Queen's Plate. Distinctly, therefore, this mare, originally imported from England by Mr. John Shedden, and sold to Colonel D'Arcy Boulton after Mr. Shedden's fatal accident, was a great loss to the breeding interests of Ontario. Mr. Fletcher, impressed with the idea that he could buy our brood mares cheaper than he could equally well-bred ones in Tennessee or Kentucky, much nearer his home, has once more appeared on the scene, and from the already depleted ranks of thoroughbred brood mares has captured Stolen Kisses, Olga, The Forsaken, Octoroon, Modjeska, and some others. Nor are these the only exportations. Just as the Ontario Jockey Club had got nicely to work, had encouraged respectable people to witness a sport hitherto of questionable repute, had given prizes of a magnitude likely to promote the breeding of home-raised competitors, and had obtained that patronage for the want of which racing was languishing, comes this dire and unexpected blow. Breeders of the thoroughbred are mostly turfmen, but they have not had the courage to resist the temptation of ready money down, and now, if reflection saddens them, it only remains for them and others to go South and buy better ones than those they have parted with. The abducted mares are none of them terribly high-bred or of very fashionable strains, if we except the English mare Lady Glasgow, bought recently for the Philadelphia millionaire, Mr. A. J. Cassatt. It is easy enough to replace them, and we hope that to some degree this may be done. In the natural course of things the lovers of the turf will, for turf purposes, be introducing purchases from the American side of our boundary, and, when their running qualities are exhausted, some of them will be relegated to stud purposes. After all, the breeding of thoroughbred racers is but of secondary importance to that general improvement of the breed which is secured by the crossing of colder-blooded mares with blood stallions, and these may always be obtained in the States better than they are bred in Canada. So undeniable is the advantage of a "drop of blood," so well and universally recognized is the debt a good bit of stuff is always under to some parent tracing to the stud book, that we may be sure blood stallions will always, more or less, be

racing prospects. The sale of so many high-bred matrons is a blow to the future of those contests, which are confined to animals bred in the Dominion, and in the failure or success of which a deal of local enthusiasm is always aroused. But there are hardly as many thoroughbred mares in the Province as there are counties, so that the injury even to racing prospects must be admitted to be measureable by the possibility there was of any great access to the turf, had the mares all remained here. The truth, we suspect, is that Canada is not a congenial field for racing, and its attendant surroundings. The Ontario Jockey Club has taken hold of fraud by the throat, and has given very excellent meetings, where first-rate sport was seen, and nothing occurred to mar the success of an evident reformation. But has the club induced one man of means and position to join the ranks of race horse owners? Is it not still an amusement carried on, under strict supervision, it is true, but too much in the interest of the professional trainers and jockeys? In however a distant degree of comparison have we hopes of a Lord Falmouth, or a Belmont or a Cassatt joining the turf from a pure love of the sport, and of a noble animal? So far as we can see the prospect is not a cheerful one for those who see in the promotion of racing the only chance of dotting the country over with thoroughbred stallions, and we fear that it must be left to the enterprise of breeders, rather than sportsmen, to procure sires in the American market.

The enormous growth of racing in the States is due to the gigantic sums which can now be won by successful racers there, and this it is that has led to the search for brood mares, and to a sudden increase in the number of blood colts dropt, that will soon make Bruce's book vie with the time-honored pages of Wetherby. Among the natural results will be a plethora of thoroughbred stallions, and none the worse for being broken down. Moderately successful entire racers will be procurable at the price of a good carriage horse. And to this near event we would direct the attention of Canadian farmers.

Under totally different social circumstances to those obtaining in Canada, the sister colony of Australia has witnessed a development of racing and breeding such as is now to be seen going on to the south of us. But we repeat that in this generation we think promoters of the sport in Canada have an uphill game to fight. While not despairing of securing the services of blood stallions without the incentive of rich prizes on the Canadian turf, we will admit that honest racing must have a tendency to encourage their purchase and retention in the country.

The returns from the frontier custom houses would tell how many saddle horses the Americans have found in Ontario during the last six or seven years, and the list would be a long one. Many, too, have been taken to England, at prices highly remunerative to the farmers who have bred them. Nine-tenths of these animals have been sired by a thoroughbred stallion. The same may be said of Toronto and Montreal, where the establishment of packs of fox hounds has led wealthy young men to look for hunters. Both these cities are full of half-bred horses, used under saddle, and got by blood sires from the farmer's coarser, bigger framed mares. In all quarters that demand will increase rather than abate, and if we can view the wholesale export of blood mares with tolerable equanimity, it is because we believe that American sires will be procured from the States, just as our Canadian ewes and bulls are sought for by our neighbors desirous of improving their flocks and herds by crossing them with the best obtainable male.