

Cattle Grazing.—The Stocking of Pasture Lands.—This depends upon the quality of the land to be grazed. The *best lands* are commonly known as “bullock lands,” and are those capable of fattening cattle from the richness of their grasses: these *best lands* are generally appropriated to the grazing of cattle. These lands are “laid in” in the early part of the winter. As soon as a good pasture is obtained, which will be about the close of April or the beginning of May, the bullocks are put thereon—the number depending upon the state of the pasture and geniality of the season. Fattening cattle must have good pasturage, and every care must be taken to keep the pasture in what is called a feeding state. As the grass increases more cattle may be put on it; and in luxuriant seasons horses may be put on, at the rate of about one to seven acres; but stocking with sheep conjointly, on the “best bullock lands,” should be avoided: the sheep picking out much of the fine growing grass, leaving of course the coarser for the cattle, but the horses more generally feed upon the short bare places, roadways, footways, and the like. They are not considered detrimental in a fattening pasture in the early part of the season, but should be removed soon after midsummer or whenever the pasture begins to fall off. It has become a common practice in many districts to give fattening cattle an allowance of *four pounds* of linseed cake upon their pastures: it is either given in small tubs, or the dust or small pieces are sifted out, and the larger ones are thrown upon the ground, from which they are readily gathered, and without waste. This allowance of cake is, we think, highly advantageous, and in two ways—it will give that peculiar quality or hand to the animal which is so desirable, and the pasture upon the average will carry or fatten one head of cattle more upon every seven acres. The writer of this paper has for several years witnessed the good effects of this system upon two fields of ten acres each, and has practised it on others. These fields, prior to the introduction of the plan of giving cattle *cake upon grass*, were usually stocked with ten cattle (large oxen) in each field, or one per acre; now, each field will fatten with greater rapidity twelve, by having the above allowance of cake—thus making a difference of one bullock to five acres. We believe this mode well worth adoption, and give it our most unqualified recommendation; it is a most effective way to improve grazing lands—the cattle thrive much faster, and are soon ready to give place to others.

In stocking these “best lands,” much attention should be given to the proper choice of the stock to be depastured upon them. It is most advantageous to choose animals of a good fattening quality, suited in size and weight according to the fertility of the land, and in good and thriving condition; indeed, almost fat—these will speedily be fit for the butcher. On being sold off, the land should be very heavily stocked with

store cattle and store sheep, so as to feed the whole off in the shortest time possible, and then to be again “laid in” for a sufficient time to obtain pasturage preparatory to a renewed stocking. In this way “two runs” of cattle may be fattened of every summer. Many graziers, however, prefer easing other pastures by taking off store or lean stock, and leaving them thereon for more rapid improvement. The droppings of the cattle ought to be repeatedly knocked and spread, and it is a good practice to mow some portion of the rough places every day, in order to their being eaten more readily. This will keep the pasture more even, and materially improve the herbage of these places, and in what are called “grass” years (highly productive years) the cattle will be benefited by eating the partially dried herbage, for which they manifest frequently a decided preference. Those animals affected with purging will resort to it, and be benefited in this respect. If these rough places are left uneaten during a whole summer, they become a large tussac of grass, which nothing will eat afterwards; they destroy the finer herbage or grass near them, and are finally rotted down in the ensuing winter. In stocking pastures on the lands not known as the “best lands,” but still good enough to fatten cattle of medium size and quality, and which are known as second-rate “bullock lands,” the same course may be advantageously pursued—the great difference will be in the choice of the animals. The best lands will fatten oxen of great weight; and their value is thus commonly estimated:—“That field will fatten an ox of a hundred stones weight—this one of seventy stones.” If we come below seventy stones, it is then considered to be in the class of second-rate bullock lands. These lands are generally stocked with cattle of less weight, or, if stocked with large cattle, they ought to have an allowance of cake daily. The more common mode is to stock them with the smaller Scotch or Welsh cattle, small Devons, and the like; indeed, any breed not likely to exceed fifty or sixty imperial stones in weight. Heifers, dray cows, and two year old steers, thrive very fast on such lands; the former are much sought after by the grazier for this purpose. Lands of moderate fertility will advantageously graze stock, though put on in low condition, if it is allowed time to get a lead. The old adage says, “Twenty-four hours for the sheep, twelve days for the ox:” this adage may be satisfactorily explained on studying the process “of rumination—the herbage should be sufficiently long to be easily gathered by the ox—he will then soon lay down, and the process of rumination immediately proceeds.” One of the modern improvements in summer grazing is the fattening of cattle in byres, hovels, or fold-yards. This introduction has materially lessened the annual value of the best summer-fed bullock lands, inasmuch as it provides a substitute. It is but a very few years since that the meat markets were supplied, dur-