

## GOOD BUTTER IN WINTER.

For the benefit of my lady friends, I will give my experience of twenty-five years, in making as good butter in winter as in summer. In the first place we suppose the cows to have been fed on good feed. After the milk has been strained, put on the stove to heat, either in the pans or in any other way thought proper. Do not make it too hot, or the cream will not rise; it may then be placed in a clean cellar, free from vegetables or anything that will give the cream an unnatural taste, or in a cupboard with a canvass door, in a moderately warm room; if in the latter place, it should not be put in until the steam has passed off, otherwise the shelves will be liable to mould. The milk should not stand longer in winter than in summer, or the butter will be bitter. In 36 or 48 hours it should be skimmed, if in a cool place, sooner if in a warm one. If the milk is thought to be too rich to give to the pigs, let it stand longer, and use the cream that rises on it for shortening or in some other way than for butter.

If the milk has been kept in a cool place, take the cream to a warm room a day or two before churning. If you wish the butter to look and taste like grass butter, grate orange carrots, put some hot water or milk to the pulp, strain and add it to the cream, which should be a little above 60 degrees when you commence churning. A common sized tea-spoonful will color six pounds of butter. After churning, draw off the buttermilk, put cold water in the churn, and churn a few minutes, and if managed right, you will never fail of having good butter. I rejoice that the prejudice against washing butter with cold water is slowly passed away. Heating the milk I believe is an English method, and ought to be more generally practised, then there would not be so much poor butter in the market.—Becks Co. FARMERS' WIFE in *American Agriculturist*.

## The Poultry Yard.

### ON GENERAL TREATMENT OF FOWLS.

The best guide is Nature, and we should always follow her as closely as possible in the treatment of our stock. Fowls are always grazing animals, and pick up grass, or any green food in quantities. If therefore you cannot give them complete liberty (and this is impossible where large numbers and varieties are kept), you should, at all events, allow them a daily run in grass park. One hour's liberty is sufficient to keep them in health, and their enjoyment of this boon is so great that, even were there no other reason, that should be sufficient inducement for you to give them their bit of happiness, even at the expense of trouble to yourself.

It is astonishing how soon fowls accommodate themselves to the regulations of the establish-

ment. A day or two suffices to make them quiesce in all our wishes, and enable them to recognise without apparent difficulty their respective yards. Fowls seem to understand the value of their hour's play, and lose no time (the once opened) in availing themselves of it; they rush to the grass, and never cease picking until driven home. Great care must be taken that one set is put in before the other is out: this demands hourly attention, as by moment's carelessness in allowing breeds to mix, hopes, for a whole season may be destroyed. There are several yards of the same breed, to save time, may be allowed to enjoy each other's society during their run, as a *finix* in their case, though not advisable, need not be fatal; but never let out different varieties together. One single *mesalliance* will ruin the purity of the breed. At no season of the year should hens be allowed to associate with male birds of a different variety, and if superlative excellence is desired, not even with an inferior one of the same.

While the fowls are enjoying their grass, their yards may be dug over; twice a week not too often for this operation. Occasionally a little of the soil pared off, and fresh sand strewn in its place. At all times perfect cleanliness in yards and houses, should greet the eye of every visitor—it is the grand requisite. At risk of appearing didactic, I must insist upon this *sine qua non* in a poultry establishment: great or small, be it that of the "laird," or of his "tenant." I do not say with some writers "If the floor of the house can be cleansed every morning, so much the better;" but I say, it must be done, and scrupulously so, too. If the floor is as hard as it ought to be, a birch broom is the best implement that can be used for this purpose.

The supply of water must be copious, and the purest description, and the dust-bath also provided with ashes for the use of the fowls. To love to roll themselves in this, scattering their tents over their feathers, to the effectual dislodgement of all parasites. A little of lime rubbish or old mortar should be placed in a corner of each yard—poultry are fond of it and it is conducive to their health. Once a year the interior of the houses should be lime-washed and the floor saturated with the same mixture. This keeps all perfectly pure and free from taint.

It is good, during warm weather, occasionally to sprinkle water over the perch, and in its vicinity, scattering a little sulphur over the wet parts. This ought to, and in a great measure does, prevent the appearance of any obnoxious animalculæ, which, too often, in even well-related establishments, make their way good, the torment of the occupants and their attendants. Depend upon it, the more we attend to our domestic animals the more they will reward our care.

To realise excellence demands the most flagging zeal and energy on the part of the