

them. You recommend to wash the trees with soap-suds and sulphur, I have washed them every year with soap-suds, without the sulphur. I will try the sulphur next spring, but I think that there must be other preventives."

Ans.—We are not aware that any specific remedy has been found for this destructive orchard pest. The suggestions of the *Rural World*, which appear at p. 333 of the present vol. of THE CANADA FARMER, may probably be useful to our correspondent. A recent exchange has the following:—"We are determined to persecute the borers till they shall seek other quarters than our orchards. We are trying a novel experiment. We box up the trees a foot from the ground and fill in with shavings or saw-dust. If they attack the tree, it must be above the box where they can easily be seen. It is easily done, and we see no reason why it will not be a preventive."

A PROBLEM TO SOLVE.—"A. C. A." writes as follows: "We find in raising stock that by proper breeding, good feeding and judicious management, nearly every kind of animal can be brought to a state approaching perfection. Sheep, however, appear to be an exception to this rule. Notwithstanding all the feeding and breeding, washing and clipping, a perfect sheep is not produced, unless about two-thirds of the tail is cut off. Does nature make an awful blunder in producing lambs with long tails, or is the fashion of cutting them off at fault? I know of no other case where universal opinion disapproves of nature's productions. I know there are a lot of fast young men in the world, who crop and dock their dogs' tails, and thereby think they improve their looks; but I think if some of them were cropt and docked themselves, they would look quite as well as their dogs do."

Ans.—At first glance, the practice of docking lambs seems to savour of the barbarous. Experience proves, however, that the custom is prompted by humane intentions. In many instances it saves the animal from much future suffering, by preventing an accumulation of filth, and the production of maggots therein.

FALL FAIRS IN THE OTTAWA VALLEY.—On this subject "Rusticus" communicates the following gratifying information:—"The agricultural community have taken a more decided interest in the many show fairs which have taken place in this county than they generally do. Five of the townships have participated in the Government grant this year, and I don't think there were ever more than three before. The competition at each was very spirited. It is granted on all sides that there is a vast improvement in the number and quality of the articles displayed, particularly in sheep and horses. Some of Mr. Snell's celebrated Leicester sheep have found their way down here, and have won the honours, both themselves and progeny. As an instance, a neighbour of mine, who bought a ram lamb of Mr. Snell at Hamilton last year, took first for both ram and ewe lambs, although he got nothing for ewes. Another neighbour of mine, in 1862, from 29 ewes, raised 53 lambs and sold 173½ lbs. of wool. Now this beats Mr. D.W. Dubois, mentioned in THE CANADA FARMER of Sept. 15, as having productive sheep. Owing to the drouthy weather, the root crops have suffered severely. Many farmers will also have much less straw than usual on the same account."

RECIPE FOR MAKING GRAPE WINE.—"J. S. H.," of Belleville, sends a recipe for making grape wine, prefacing it as follows:—"As your correspondent, A. B. Brownson, of Bayfield, expresses a wish for some instruction in wine-making, I send a recipe which I believe may be depended upon. At the same time I would request that in case it may prove successful, an acknowledgment may be made in THE CANADA FARMER."

Take 50 lbs. of grapes, and 37 lbs. of fine moist sugar. Provide a tub that will hold from 15 to 20 gallons, taking care that it has a hole for a tap near the bottom. In this tub bruise the grapes, when done add 4 gallons of water, let the whole be well stirred together; cover the tub with a cloth, and let

the materials stand for 24 hours. Then draw off the liquor through the tap, add one or more gallons of water to the pulp, let it be well stirred, and then allowed to remain an hour to settle. Then draw off, mix the two liquors together, and in it dissolve the sugar. Let the tub be cleaned, and return the liquor to it, cover it with a blanket, and place it in a room, the temperature of which is not below 60° Fahr.,—here it ought to remain 48 hours or more,—until there is an appearance of fermentation having begun, when it should be drawn off into a 10 gallon cask as fine as possible. The cask must be filled up to the bung hole with water. If there is any liquor left in the tub not quite fine, pass it through flannel, and fill up with that instead of water. As the fermentation proceeds and the liquor diminishes, it must be filled up daily to encourage the fermentation, for 10 or 12 days. It then moderates, and the bung should be put in, and a gimlet hole made at the side of it, fitted with a spile. This spile should be taken out every 2 or 3 days, according to the state of the fermentation, for 8 or 10 days, to allow some of the generated gas to escape. When this state is passed, the cask may be kept full by pouring a little liquor in at the vent hole once a week, for 3 or 4 weeks. This operation is performed at long intervals, of a month or more, till the end of December, when on a fine frosty day it should be drawn off from the lees as fine as possible, and the turbid part passed through flannel. Clean the cask, return the liquor to it, with one drachm of pure isinglass dissolved in a little water. Stir the whole together, and put the bung in firmly. Choose a clear dry day in March for bottling it.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, DEC 1, 1865.

Winter and its Duties.

THE season that is now upon us, is regarded by many as dreary, unprofitable and tedious. Winter is not unfrequently reckoned as nearly all lost time, so far as the labours of the farm are concerned. The indoor feeding and care of stock, are counted among the hardships of our northern latitude, and multitudes sigh for a home in a milder climate, or wish that, by some physical revolution, our seasons could be ameliorated.

A Canadian winter, it must be confessed, is not without its rigours and inconveniences. It is doubtless very pleasant to think of a mild and genial climate, in which cattle need no shelter, roots no housing, and the plough can move every day in the year. But our winters have their advantages, and even charms, while the moderate weather of more southern regions is associated with counterbalancing and compensating drawbacks. It is a favourite theory of ours that, the lot of human beings, on this earth, is pretty well equalized, and that a fair statement of pros and cons would show that while special considerations may properly enough dictate a choice, there is no region that is absolutely best. Health statistics make it appear that the temperate regions are the most salubrious in the world. These climates are also most favourable to mental vigour, to the development of energy, and the promotion of true refinement, and elevation of character and manners. The bone and sinew, the flower and elite of the world's population, are to be found in these regions. A delicacy of constitution, and an effeminacy of mind and character, seem inseparable from perpetual summer. Just as the winter of adversity toughens and strengthens human character, so does the physical winter harden vegetable fibre and animal muscle, and exert an invigorating influence upon both mind and body. Winter is a most valuable tonic, though, per-

haps, like some other tonics, it may not be quite pleasant to take.

But we will not now attempt an exhaustive discussion respecting the advantages and disadvantages of winter. Enough that the stern reality is before us, and must be accepted as an unalterable condition of life in Canada. Our wisdom is to adopt such measures as we can to mitigate its hardships, to reap its advantages, and turn it to useful account. This is the season for consuming the crops that have been grown during the genial summer-time. In the growing season, good economy dictates that the farmer should raise heavy crops, and, in the feeding season, good economy demands that there be no waste but that the food provided be made to go as far as possible. Comfortable shelter not only promotes the warmth and well-being of animals, but makes their food go farther. By preventing waste of animal heat, it is easier to keep stock in good condition. Regularity in feeding is also important. The chaffing of hay and straw, mincing of corn stalks, and grinding of grain, are modes of economizing feed, which it pays to adopt. Straw should be carefully saved. With a little meal added, it forms a most useful fodder, and will keep growing animals in fair condition. Clean, bright straw, is better than poor hay. Refuse, dirty straw, should be dried and kept for litter. It is also useful for covering roots in the field, and in cellars not quite frost-proof. Where straw is abundant, very comfortable cattle and sheep sheds may be made with it. The care of his animals, may be put down first on the list of the farmer's winter duties. Every arrangement possible, for facilitating and lightening this duty, should be resorted to. A little trouble and expense, at the beginning of winter, will often secure conveniences which will greatly lighten the labour of attending to stock. Cracks and openings, that admit cold currents of air, should be stopped; doors well hinged and provided with fastenings; and a convenient plan adopted for clearing out manure. Stables require means of ventilation, and should at all times be kept sweet and clean. Fresh air is a necessary of health and life, in the case of all animals.

Next to the care of stock, we should put on the list of winter duties, manure-making. Thousands of acres of land are suffering for want of dung. Like the daughters of the horse-leech, the soil continually cries, "give," "give." How can it be otherwise, when man is constantly taking of its wealth, in the form of vegetable products? The great want of every farm in the land is MANURE! MANURE!! The manufacture of this important article should be constantly and carefully attended to. It is, however, greatly neglected. Tons upon tons of rich fertilizing material are wasted, by drainage and evaporation, every year. Manure cannot be properly saved without a cellar or tank, and a roof of some sort. Into the cellar everything should be tumbled, that is capable of decomposing. The roof will prevent the washing away of the soluble particles by the rain. Both the solid and liquid droppings of animals should be saved with rigid economy. With these may be mixed, swamp muck, leaves, turf, spent tan bark, in short, whatever can be scraped together, that will rot. The contents of the pig-sty and fowl-house are among the richest manures, and should be turned to good account. Most farms have on them some low place in which muck may be found. It will be good exercise for the teams to haul up a large supply of this valuable material, in the winter time. It can be got at and dug at this season of the year, better than any other.

In many parts of the country, where wood brings a good price, and farmers have considerable timber, wood-chopping and hauling is profitable winter work. When only the family supply of wood can be afforded, year by year, this is the season to get up a stock of firing. It is wretched policy to burn green wood, and very poor management to bring it up, a load at a time, as it is wanted. The farmer's wood