

food is exactly to his mind; he usually pines for liberty, which he is apt to get by death. None but the most careful and most devoted of pet-lovers can keep a tanager alive.

The flicker, or golden-winged woodpecker, is also rather hard to keep, although if taken young and thoroughly tamed he will live for years in a cage. When caged in adult years he is exceedingly shy and wild, and will almost beat himself to death against his bars. He eats mocking-bird food.

We often see the bob-o-link for sale in the city, but he cannot be recommended as a pet. He is wild, hard to make acquaintance with and to put confidence in people. It is no wonder, however, when one considers the constant persecution to which he is subjected as rice-bird or reed-bird. Moreover the charm of the bob-o-link is his wonderful song, and to give that he needs the summer air to soar in, the warm June weather and the sweet sunny meadow to inspire him. He is not a success in a cage. The cedar bird is pretty to look at, but he is a silent fellow, and in captivity rather dull.

Some of the larger birds, which cannot be kept in an ordinary cage, are most fascinating pets in the country, or even in town where one has room. No creature that ever came out of an egg will afford more amusement than a blue-jay or the common crow, though the latter must be kept mostly out of doors. So wily, so knowing, so full of pranks are both these birds, that one gets attached to them as to a frolicsome child. The jay will hammer your furniture to pieces, destroy your pretty boxes, and tear your books, but he will be so cunning about it, show so much intelligence, and, at the same time, such a child-like ingenuousness, that you will readily forgive his naughtiness, and let him work his will.

The crow will carry off your silver spoons, hide your thimble, take possession of any jewelry you leave in his way, but all apparently with the most laudable desire to have things tidied up, so that he, too, is forgiven and loved. I think people get more attached to these two birds, in spite of their mischief, than to any others. They eat almost anything that people eat, and the crow in particular will dispose of an enormous amount for one of his size. Once domesticated one of these birds will stay about the house and never care to join his wild relatives. In truth, I suppose the life of a wild crow is a really hard struggle to supply his own larder, and the wise birds are knowing enough, when well fed without work, to stay in that happy land of plenty.

Gulls and the numerous crows make agreeable pets when tamed, but they are inconvenient to keep in city houses. In the country they are delightful to have about, because, living mostly out of doors, they do not require so much care, are more easily kept healthy, and naturally are more lively and amusing.

If you want a bird to be very tame and familiar you must have but one. No creature is more jealous or sensitive than a bird, and if you have several, none will become very intimate with you. It is easy, however, to win the heart of almost any single bird, and without starving him, or making him think he has mastered you. Simply talk to him a good deal. Place his cage near you, on your desk or work table, and retain his choicest dainty to give him yourself, from your own fingers. Let him know that he can never have that particular thing unless he take it from you, and he will soon learn, if you are patient and do not disconcert him by fixing your eyes upon him. After this he will more readily take it from your lips; and then, when you let him out of his cage, after the first excitement is over, he will come to you (especially if you have a call you have accustomed him to) and accept the dainty from you while free. From that time nothing is needed but invariably kind and gentle treatment, never frightening him by a sudden movement or a loud noise. As soon as he has really become convinced that you will not hurt him nor try to catch him, nor interfere in any way with his liberty, he will give way to his boundless curiosity about you; he will pull your hair, pick at your eyes, and give you as much of his company as you desire. You should keep out of the way of a tame bird such things as needles, rubber-bands, bits of glass, small buttons, and, in general, objects small enough to swallow. Whatever instinct he may have in his natural surroundings, does not seem to avail him in a house.

The general directions given for the care of birds are all that is necessary to know in order to keep successfully any of the foreign birds so plentiful in our country, aside from the little idiosyncracies of food,

which every dealer gives with the bird. Perhaps I should except the skylark, which requires a fresh sod and no perches, and which I have not found satisfactory as a cage bird.

I must say a few words about one habit that our little captives sometimes fall into, that should be promptly cured or they will become very annoying—that is, scattering their food. Usually mocking-bird food is put in a broad, open cup, that comes for the purpose, that the eater may pick it over and select the bits that please him, but if he begins to throw it out, either with beak or feet, take him in hand at once and change his dish for one that will not allow this. A glass dish opening at the side (large enough to be entirely safe for his head), or a China flat cover, with holes in, to put over his cup, will answer the purpose.—*Home-maker.*

### Welcome Visitors.

Our thanks are due the secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland for the gift of the Clydesdale Stud Book (Vol. XI) issued by them. It is a large, well bound volume having the following number of entries; foals, 1120; mares, 1106; and stallions, 991, making a grand total of 3217. It contains also a fine life-like photograph of the magnificent stallion, Macaulay 5187, and also one of the prize winning mare, Laura Lee, Vol. VII, page 56.

Through the kindness of Mortimer Levering, Esq., secretary of the American Shropshire Registry Association, we have been favored with a substantially bound book, the American Shropshire Sheep Record '91, containing in the neighborhood of 2586 entries. We are pleased to note that one of our engravings of a trio from the excellent flock of Jno. Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklyn, Ont., has been used as a preface and an excellent one it makes.

We have been favored with a business-like catalogue from A. Gilchrist, West Toronto Junction. Many valuable hints are given on planting, nature of shrubs, trees, etc., offered, which alone are well worth the trouble of application for this useful pamphlet. The rose, clematis, hardy shrubs and climbers, trees etc., including a long list of greenhouse plants and a new novelty in the vegetable line, called "Vegetable Whitebait," is fully described. Mr. Gilchrist makes a specialty of that handsome tree, the Norway spruce, growing his own plants from seed at Guelph, and thereby enabling him to vouch for the worth of the seedlings. See advt. this is in.

Woodlawn Stock Farm (so we learn from a neat catalogue sent us) is devoted almost exclusively to the breeding of trotting bred stock under the proprietorship of Thomas Hay, Ailsa Craig, Middlesex Co., Ont. He has at present 9 head of standard bred trotters—3 stallions and 6 mares and fillies. The majority of these have been sired by Western Sprague 2289, out of equally well bred mares. This stallion is a worthy son of Governor Sprague, that at 5 years old had a record of 2.20½, and sire of seventeen with records from 2.18 to 2.30 and out of a daughter of Allie West (5-year-old record, 2.25), the first son of Almont to beat 2.30, and although he died when six years old, he sired 36 foals, of which three are now in the 2.30 list, one with a record of 2.20 and three pacers with a record better than 2.17; a son that sired Wilkes, 2.27, and a daughter that produced Mollie Wilkes, 2.20½. Through his dam Egotism he gets the blood of Woodlawn Mambrino, 2.21½ (said to be the greatest son of Mambrino Chief), who sired Princeps 536, also Pancoast, 2.21¾ (the sire of the great Patron, 2.14¾), then through his second dam the blood of Volunteer, one of the greatest sires of campaigners—all backed by the performing blood of Flora Belle, 2.22¾. With such a foundation to build a superstructure on, Mr. Hay has every reason to look for success and appreciation from others for the good work he is doing in improving the light horse interests of our Province.

We have to hand a catalogue of Holstein-Friesian cattle from the well-known firm of Smith Bros., Churchville, Ont., the proprietors of the Credit Valley Stock Farm, Peel Co. Their herd consists at present of thirty head of pure-bred Holsteins, headed by the stock bull Duke of Etgely. This bull has won many prizes in Canada, winning 2nd at Toronto Industrial, 1st at the Provincial, 1885, as a calf, 2nd as a yearling at Provincial, 1886; 1st as a 2-year-old at Toronto Industrial, 1887, and 1st as a 3-year-old at Brampton, 1888. The rest of the herd have almost

equalled him in prize winnings. They are also of the best of breeding, having been chosen by their owners, not only for their personal qualities, but for the milk-producing tendencies of their ancestors. Among the latter we notice such cows as Mink, that when a 4-year old produced 91 lbs. milk in a day, 849 lbs. in 10 days, 2499½ in a month, and in the year 16,628½ lbs.; and such bulls as Mercedes Prince (2150 H. F. H. B.), whose dam has a milk record of 88 lbs. in one day and a butter record of 3 lbs. 10 oz. in a day, 24 lbs. 6 oz. in 7 days, 99 lbs. 6½ oz. in 30 days. His weight at 3 years of age was 2325 lbs. Among the ir own is Siepkje, with a milk record of 1891½ lbs. in 31 days as a 3-year-old; Kleiterp 4th, when 3 years old, gave in 20 days 1000 lbs.; Cornelia Tensen, when a 3-year-old, gave 70 lbs. per day, 472½ lbs. in 7 days, and 1944 lbs. in 30 days; and Harmonia, that when 2 years old gave 51½ lbs. in 1 day. This firm has also seven or eight horses of Clydesdale breeding and also a thoroughbred mare, Miss Lyle (imp.), 7 years old, that took 3rd prize at the hurdle at Toronto, 1886. She has been since used as a brood mare.

### Notings.

**Correction.**—Through some oversight there are a couple of mistakes that occurred in Mr. John Campbell's article on Shropshire Breeders' Association in our last issue (March). On page 62, second to last line, first paragraph, "sheep" should read "Shrop." Fourteenth line, second paragraph on same page should read "properly-bred sheep."

**From Two Rivers.**—A correspondent, Mr. Sydney Upper, writing from Two Rivers, Manitoba, says: "We have had so far a very mild winter, just enough snow to make good sleighing. The wheat market makes it lively in the towns and cities. To give you a slight idea of the business done, I may say that at Brandon alone there has been sold during 1888, 2,000 horses, mostly to supply the demands of the farmers. Wheat is now selling from 60c. to 92c., according as the frost may have affected it. Land has been taken up very fast during the past winter, and a very large emigration is expected next year."

**A Line from the North-West.**—A correspondent, Mr. G. L. Dodds, Melita P. O., Man., writes us as follows: "This is one of the finest countries for horse raising on the face of our Dominion. The farmer on our western prairies must have a heavy horse for the gang plough and binder. Up to the present, our farmers have had to bring their horses from Ontario. The farmers here do not raise their own horses and as a result thousands of dollars go out of Manitoba each year for horses, while we might as well grow our own. Those who have started the horse industry in this country find that it pays well, as food is plentiful, and horses in great demand. I have at present 10 horses. I am crossing the native broncho with the blood. This gives a hardy race of horses with good action and great endurance."

**The Book of Ensilage.**—Ensilage as a factor in Canadian husbandry, has made very rapid progress in a few years. Many are eagerly looking for information, and hence a book purporting to treat of this subject will be greeted with a warm welcome by those desiring information. We have been favored by the author and publisher, F. R. Carskadon of Keyser, W. Va., with a copy of the above book. It is serviceably bound in pamphlet form, and is replete with information of a practical nature, made up of experiences of the author in this direction, as well as short accounts of the experiences of other veterans in this work. Many copious extracts are also made from other writers, which upholds the author in his bulwarked position that ensilage has come to stay, and that it is now accepted by all those who have given it a fair trial, (and he says the ones opposed to it are in the majority of cases those who have not tried it) that as an economical wealth producing factor, it stands unrivalled. The price of the book is 50 cents.

### United States Grants in aid of Agriculture.

One of the most liberal governments in aiding the cause of agriculture is that of our friends across the line. Through the *American Agriculturist* we learn that for the Department of Agriculture the appropriation this year was \$1,625,517, and the several State appropriations besides this large amount for the Department at Washington, is as follows: Connecticut, for the year ended June 30th, 1888, the total appropriations were \$45,073; New York, \$283,424, including \$10,000 for institute work; Ohio, \$87,960; Illinois, \$69,200; Wisconsin, \$68,631, including \$12,000 for farmers' institutes; Pennsylvania, about