

body must put in one or more fields; and land, fit or unfit, is fallowed for this crop. Or, still worse, it is sown on the stubble of a previous grain crop, with poor preparation and no manure. Do hops pay well in a certain district? Then hopyards spring up as if by magic, here, there and everywhere. Is flax a success in a given locality? Then without asking how far it is to a flax mill, all turn their attention to flax-growing. Have some men done well at dairying? Then there is a fortune in it for everybody. Farmers no longer care to grow their own bread. Every country gentleman aspires to be a cow-herd, and he who holds back is a coward. Milk is pumped out of the soil, till the elements that produce it are exhausted. Cheese factories are multiplied, until they outnumber the churches; and, like the churches, where one might do, there are five or six. My counsel to dairymen would be, to weed out the poor cows from their herds, rub up their rusty ploughs, grow at least wheat enough to bread their families, raise a little corn for meal, as well as for green fodder; keep a few sheep, pigs, chickens and even bees; cultivate plenty of garden "sass," dismiss the fear of having "too many irons in the fire," and get a complete set, shovel, poker, tongs, and dogs; do not put all your eggs into one basket, nor all your energies into half-a-dozen milk cans. One string to your bow may do in archery, or in love; but it is just as well, nay, far better, to have more in agriculture.

But, Paganini like, I must confine my music to one string just now. *Weed out the poor cows.* Keep no "mis'able critter" that will eat her own head off and part of another's. If you have such "coming in" this spring, milk them only in the flush, dry them up as soon as possible, turn them into good pasture, raise some early ripening grain, fat them in the fall while still at grass, and hand them over to the tender mercies of the butcher before winter. They are like misers and hogs, good for nothing until they are dead. Don't sell your poor

cows to beginners in the dairy business, or ignorant townsfolk. That would only be to perpetuate the evil in another form. If the poor cows in Ontario could only be fattened the coming season, beef would be cheap next fall, the poor would laugh and grow fat, while dairying would be on the highway to prosperity.

It is announced in the programme that I will say something on the "Best Breed of Cattle for Dairy and General Purposes." I don't know whether it is a mistake of the printer or of somebody else, but it certainly is a mistake to use the singular noun "breed" in such a connection. For there is no one breed of cattle that is best for the dairy and general purposes, any more than there is any one man who is adapted to every business under the sun, or any one article of food that will do for an exclusive dietary, or any one medicine that will cure all diseases. Just as you must "cut your coat according to your cloth," so you must choose your breed of cattle according to circumstances and the end you have in view. For a rich pasturage select a large breed of cattle; for a meagre pasturage choose one of the smaller breeds. For a single family cow that will give luscious milk and gilt-edged butter, buy a Jersey—when she can be got for about \$50. Good as the little Jerseys are, they are a poor speculation at present figures. If they were the cheapest cows in the market, it would be folly for a milkman to buy them unless he could double the price of milk, or count in one pump to every cow. The Jerseys are, emphatically, a butter breed. The cow that comes the nearest to being the best for dairy and general purposes, in my opinion, is the Ayrshire, and I am glad to have an high authority as Prof. Arnold uniting with me in this opinion. For milk, butter and cheese, the Ayrshires have no equal, especially on poor and hilly farms. They are more uniformly good milkers than any other breed, but there are defective specimens even among them which must be weeded out and consigned to the butcher. The best of