

HOW TO JUDGE THE WEATHER.

THE colors of the sky at different times are a wonderful guidance. Not only does a clear sunset portend fair weather, but there are other tints which speak with clearness and accuracy. A bright yellow in the evening indicates wind; a pale yellow wet; a neutral gray color constitutes a favorable sign in the evening—an unfavorable one in the mor-

ning. The clouds are full of meaning in themselves. If they are soft, undefined and feathery, the weather will be fine; if the edges are hard, sharp and definite, it will be foul. Generally speaking, any deep unusual hues betoken wind and rain; while more quiet and delicate tints bespeak fair weather. Simple as these maxims are, the British Board of Trade has thought fit to publish them for the use of sea-faring men.

BREEDERS' DEPARTMENT

SOILING CATTLE.

WHETHER soiling cattle would prove an advantage over the present almost universally followed system of pasturing, is a question which has not received as much attention as its importance deserves. In the mountainous parts of the country, where the soil is much better adapted to grazing than cultivation, the present system is doubtless the best; but on level land, while there are some objections to soiling, one of the principles of which is, the great amount of the labor necessary to make it successful, there are many advantages over the present method of pasturing. To a few of these I will briefly allude.

Farmers would not need as much land as they do now, and there would also be a great saving in the cost of fences, which is an important consideration. The cost of fences is very great, and it requires a great amount of time and labor to construct and repair them. Soiling would render the cattle more comfortable, and keep them in better condition than the common method of pasturing. Animals regularly fed with suitable food, and supplied with pure water, will be more valuable for milk, or for beef, than if obliged to run over large pastures to obtain their food and drink, from the muddy streams and ditches, which so often supply pastures with water. Soiling cattle seems to possess advantages for those who live near cities and large towns, and who sell milk. To them it is important to have a uniform quantity, in order to supply their customers regularly. In order to secure this, cows must have a uniform supply of proper food, and this in common pastures cannot be obtained.

But while there are other reasons for soiling cattle, which I have not time to

dwell on, the principal argument in favor of soiling is, I believe, the *great saving of manure*. When cattle are allowed to run at large, the manure is nearly all wasted, but if they are kept at the barn or yard, and properly bedded with straw, coarse hay, or, better still, dry muck, large quantities of manure can be made every summer. This is a point of the greatest practical importance. Without manure there can be no good farming. In order to succeed in his business, for any length of time, the farmer must have manure, and by soiling his cattle he can obtain it. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

South Amherst, Mass.

HORSE BREEDING.

THERE is evidently a great and increasing interest manifested by farmers and others, in improving the present breed of horses, which is shown, not only in the selection of superior animals to breed from, but also in a willingness to pay high prices for such services, that once would have seemed fabulous. Any facts, therefore, of value, calculated to throw light upon a subject so important to stock raisers, may be useful as well as interesting.

The present breed of horses in this country originated from stock imported from England, in which country the native breed of horses had been improved by successive crossings with those of German, Spanish and Arabian blood, in the order named, until England possessed what she still claims to have, the finest breed of horses in the world.

The improvement thus effected is to be attributed to a number of causes, among which are, indirectly, the inventions of gunpowder and steam. Previous to the invention of gunpowder, the horses were large