

held—and any other items of information, hints, or suggestions, which may occur to the writers as valuable.

In order to give time for drawing up these reports, we request them to be sent free of postage, to Mr. James Court, Montreal, by 1st January next. Correspondents are requested to give their names, which will be affixed to their statements. We sincerely hope that at least one individual will be found in every county to answer this call.

IMPROVEMENT OF STOCK.

Doubtless the best mode of improving the stock of the farm is by obtaining some of the improved breeds; but is this the only way? Most of our farmers have a cow or two with which little if any fault can be found. So with the pigs. Among their sheep also, some have good wool and good carcass, and all may be improved by proper care, either by selecting good animals of their own or a neighbour's to breed from, if the improved breeds can not conveniently be come at. If this course had been steadily pursued, we should have little need of importing stock; and if this course is not adopted and perseveringly followed, the benefits resulting from imported breeds will be of short duration. On the contrary, how often is the reverse taken. Some miserable fall calf is left to run and starve his way up to the size of a buck sheep, is still neglected, and runs with the cows; the consequence is that the calves are after this miserable "runt," to use a significant Yankee phrase, and show the marks of their sire in every point. To be sure the cow will give milk after bringing forth such a worse than an abortion, which is the only advantage the farmer can derive from his cow, for the calf might better be knocked on the head—it will not pay for raising.

Every farmer can finish the picture for himself with the pigs, sheep, &c.

Do not sell the best Stock.

Another great reason why some farmers have no better stock is, that they sell or slaughter their best breeders of the cows, ewes, and sows, thus destroying all prospect of improvement.

Does a heifer show a disposition to fatten easy, she is encouraged by feed until fat, and sold or eaten, while her fellows, which appear to be of the breed of Pharaoh's lean kine, are kept for milk and raising calves. Has a farmer a sow pig, that becomes fat with the same feed on which the rest of the swine are starving? He gives her the knife and propagates the frames and covers them at great expense with corn. Has he a fine round, bright eyed ewe, she will be fat about the time that his half filled pork barrels are empty, and she is stripped of her jacket, the wethers having been sold long before. Thus many farmers go on perpetuating their miserable stock.

Farmer Pennywise and Farmer Poundwise.

There is Farmer Pennywise, with whom I am acquainted, will occasionally raise a good heifer, steer or colt, for his neighbours keep good breeds, and he, by accident will be occasionally benefited thereby. When he has such an animal in his flock, he is apparently uneasy until it is disposed of, and after selling such an animal, a heifer for instance, if you follow him to the house you may hear something like the following:

"Well my dear, I have sold the big heifer for fifteen dollars; is not that a good price for a heifer of her age?" "Good price indeed," his wife would reply, "you had better have sold two of them little cat hammed, crooked legged, scrawny things that you always kept for cows. The reason that our cattle look so bad, and that we sell so little butter and cheese is, that you will sell the best heifers." Poor woman, I pity her; her pride and ambition are injured, and her children and self in rags, because her native industry and economy are cramped by the foolish and niggardly policy of her husband.

The picture is reversed in Farmer Poundwise, who always keeps his best animals until full grown; then selecting his best breeders for his own use, and selling the rest. If he has a good young horse, he will say, that will make me a fine team horse; a mare, she will make me a good brood mare. "And what will you do

with that," says his neighbor, pointing to an ordinary animal. "Between you and me," says he, "I shall sell that colt the first chance. Such animals spoil the looks of the rest, and do not pay for keeping." Thus he will sell his poor steers, heifers, sheep, and pigs at the first offer. If not sold, he would fatten those that would pay the expense, and give away those that would not. Not pay the expense of fattening? Are there any cattle, sheep, or hogs that will not pay the expense of fattening? Reader, take some of each, of the real Pharaoh breed, feed them until fat, keep an exact account of the expense, and you can answer the question yourself. In this way farmer Poundwise always has valuable stock; his steers are ready sale, and command a good price; his horses are the best in the neighbourhood, and the first to be looked at by purchasers. So with all the animals he raises.

Pennywise, on the contrary, is thronged with an ill shaped, worthless stock that none will buy and pay the expense of raising, which are continually eating out his substance and making no return. Thus Pennywise drags on a miserable life in the road to ruin, while Poundwise moves easily and happily along in the road to wealth.

This is not all fiction, look about you reader, and you will see plenty to sit for the picture of Pennywise; and if you have the least suspicion that I mean you, take the opposite course at once.

MANURE IS WEALTH.—In our intercourse with some of the farmers residing within forty or fifty miles from New York, on Long Island, we have been surprised at the instances related to us of the profitableness of farming. Some farmers, known to have labored and toiled hard, have continued yearly to fall in arrears till they have commenced buying manure. Fifty-six cents are given per carman's load at the landing for the apparently worthless dirt swept from the streets. The farmers who could not obtain a living by using only manure made on their farms are now, from the profits of their farms, putting money out at interest. If, then, it is found so profitable to buy manure, and be at the expences attending the carting, how very important is it to give special attention to increasing the quantity and improving the quality of that made on the farm. There is no question but that almost every farmer can double the quantity of his yard manure, without scarcely any additional expense. It is thought, too, that at least fifty per cent. of the nutritive properties of yard manure are lost by drenching of rains, excessive fermentations, and injurious application to the soil. The more we consider this subject, the greater does it become in importance, and justly regarded as the primary object in farming.—N. J. Farmer.

SOAP.—I have always taken pleasure in superintending some of the chemical operations of the kitchen; by this means I have acquired some practice, in addition to my theoretical knowledge of the art of making common soap. I shall give below, the result of my experience in making this detergent article.

The bottom of the hopper, or barrel intended for the ashes, should be covered with hay or straw; the ashes then to be thrown in, and pressed down as the hopper is filled. Leave room for a bucket full of water. If quick lime can be conveniently had, put in a gallon or more with the ashes; it is not important where, whether at the bottom or in the middle, or at the top of the barrel; or whether intermixed throughout the ashes.

Boiling water is now to be poured on the ashes until the ley pass out at the bottom. Cold water may then be used. Rain water in both cases is preferable to hard water. Four buckets full of strong ley may thus be produced from a barrel of ashes. This quantity of ley, with the requisite proportion of fat, will make half a barrel of prime soap.

When ley is put into the kettle throw in the fat without measure, the surplus is easily removed after the ley has "eaten" its share. If the process be rightly conducted, the combination will take place, and soap will be formed within half an hour's boiling. Now skim off the superabundant fat; and if brittle soap be desired, add to the hot soap 1-8 of its bulk of warm water, or more, and stir the mass well.