nitrates—instead of promoting, as in the other case, their formation, and disengages the nitric acid or other nitrogenous combinations. This explains the azotous vapour which escapes from the tuns in which the juice of beet-sugar is accumulated; the juice being knowingly rich in nitrates.

In the principal towns of Switzerland, gratuitous public lectures are delivered on agriculture, and its kindred sciences, during the winter months. The results have proved highly practical, and the lectures are well attended.

The agitation has been renewed to institute a "Herd Book" for France. The chief difficulty lies, not as to dissensions on the subject of standard qualities as a type of certain races or breeds, but to convince breeders of the utility of the measure. France might be content with the examples of England, Germany, and Switzerland in this respect.

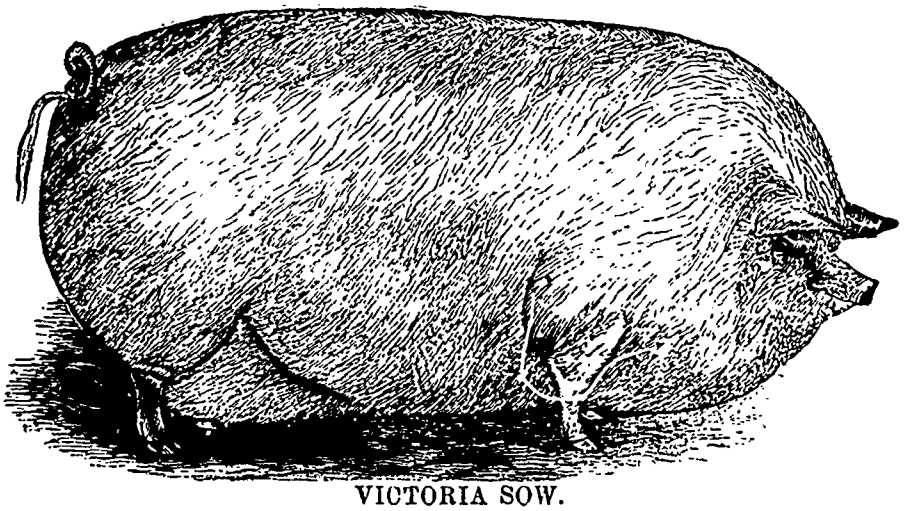
OUR ENGRAVINGS.

Percheron Norman Stallion.—A good illustration of the massive, heavy-draught horse.

Jersey Bull.—Lord Bacon.

Victoria Sow.—Bred by Scheldt and Davis, Ind.

Shropshire Wether.—Winner of Sweepstakes at Chicago, Fat-Stock Show, 1882. This three year old weighed 270 lbs. Now as the Hampshire-Down lambs, at the late Smithfield Club show, weighed 224 lbs, and the shearlings 325 lbs, I leave my readers to judge between the two breeds.



VICTORIA SOW.

Abbotsford Silo.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

Dear Sir,

Having had some enquiries about my silo, and having been requested by others to communicate my experience in ensilaging corn fodder to your journal, I send you the following, and if you think it would be of advantage to our farmers, please publish it.

Having taken a lively interest in the articles published in the Country Gentleman, in 1880 and 1881, on silos and ensilage, I determined to build a silo. Accordingly, in the fall of 1881, when farm work was not very pressing, I built the foundation of a silo, some 70 feet distant from my stable. The ground slopes enough to have the upper end of Silo wall mostly underground, and lower end sufficiently above ground for a door to take out ensilage. The size of silo wall is 14 x 26 feet on inside and 8 feet high. The wall is 2 feet thick, and the stone laid in mortar as you would build an ordinary cellar wall for a house. During the summer 1882 I finished pointing the wall on the inside with common lime mortar, and on the outside where it was above ground with Portland cement, and placed a building on the wall 18 x 30 feet, which I intend finishing off on the inside this year, by studding and boarding upon the inside, and filling in between with sawdust, leaving the inside of the building the same size as the inside of silo wall, which will give me a silo 14 x 26 feet and 16 feet in height.

In the spring of 1882, I thought I would put in a piece of corn for fodder, and try ensilaging it. Accordingly, after the ordinary spring's work was done and about the first of June, I drew out what manure I had in the yard, 10 two horse loads, and spread it on a piece of pasture land, a slight coating as far as it would go; then I ploughed 2½ arpents of said pasture, harrowed it well and drilled, in rows 2 feet apart, Western seed corn and one barrel of superphosphate. The seed proved so bad that I had to reseed again about the 16th of June. I ran the cultivator through the corn twice, that was all the cultivation it had during the season. That part of the ground which received the manure as well as the phosphate was heavy, some of it 12 feet high, and I should think produced fully 20 tons per arpent. The soil was a flat sandy loam, rather low for corn, in fact, a part of the piece was covered with water the last part of June, and the fodder was of a small growth on that part, but notwithstanding, I got 14½ tons on an average, (silo measure 50 lbs. to cubic foot,) per arpent.

On the 19th of September I commenced cutting the corn fodder with the sickle, and drawing to the silo, and cutting up the stock ¾ of an inch in length, with a Baldwin cutter, No. 13, with a one horse power; there were five of us at work the most of the time. But what with bad weather (it rained every day but the last two), old horse power, and other hindrances, we did not finish putting in and weighting our 65 two-horse loads until the 28th of September.

We used a horse 2 and 3 times each day to tread down the fodder in silo, and it is surprising how a horse will settle the pile, even after the men have trod it down as hard as they can.

On Sunday the 24th, of course, we did not touch the fodder in silo, and on Monday morning the fodder in silo looked and felt as if it had been dipped in hot water, and some of my neighbours who dropped in to look at the silo, predicted that I would have a good pile of manure there before long, and to all appearance there was a good show for it, for the whole