

direction, were really beautifully to see. The shepherd told me he was a most valuable dog—he would not sell him for 200 francs."

HINTS FOR MARCH.

CARE OF LIVE STOCK—MAPLE SUGAR MAKING, &c.

Mr. Editor,—I propose again, with your permission, to submit a few common-place observations and suggestions suitable to the time and season, which shall be perfectly at your service if deemed by you worthy a place in your columns. If I do not attempt to advance anything altogether new or original, I hope, at least, that the repetition of anything that may be perfectly obvious, will not be offensive to the experienced Agriculturist, if it shall seem to afford to any of those less practically familiar with the pursuits of farming, any slight chance of receiving an occasional hint in season, which may be of some value, if attended to.

The operations of March, generally consist very much in a continuation of the various kinds of work of the preceding winter months, with the difference that the increasing power of the sun and the approaching genial warmth of spring, warn the farmer to arouse his energies, recruited by the bracing atmosphere of winter, and shape his work with a view to being ready to battle vigorously with all the important labours to be encountered in spring, the moment that season makes its advent.

During this month, the live stock on the farm require increased care and attention; working horses that have not been kept upon full feed during winter, should now, especially if they *have been kept at full work*, be well fed upon good hay and grain, with a little bran occasionally, in order that they may be in proper condition to walk through their work expeditiously, without the danger of becoming *walking skeletons*, or nearly so (as many farm horses may be seen in spring,) when the busy season arrives. At this season, horned cattle, reduced and enfeebled in constitution by the cold winter and the want of sufficient nourishing food (and in this state, I regret to have to say, the majority of the cattle in the country will be found), will fall off more than during the winter months, unless well fed; they should now have a little hay, at least once a day, if they have not had it hitherto. A few turnips, or other succulent roots, will also be relished by them, and will serve to prepare them for the pasture fields. A little salt, also, once in a week or ten days, will keep them in health and good appetite. Cattle should not be allowed to wander over the meadows while the frost is disappearing, as they injure them very much by tramping on them, while in a wet state; and the little they can pick up, is of but slight if any service to them. Sheep will now be benefited by having a few turnips, carrots, parsnips, or other nourishing roots, with their hay, and a little salt, occasionally. Ewes likely to lamb early, must also be carefully watched and attended to.

All winter work remaining on hand, should be

at once despatched, the grain all threshed, cleaned up, and stored in the granary, if not disposed of in the market. The late rise in the price of breadstuffs, occasioned a good deal of activity in the delivery of wheat by farmers at the mills, and store-houses, which has again been suspended upon the partial decline in prices. As far as I am able to form any opinion upon the subject, I should say that there is but little fear of a much further decline, but rather the contrary. But opinions of this kind often turn out to be mere guess work. At any rate, it is a very good plan for farmers to go on delivering their wheat while the roads are favourable, and, if they do not like the current price, make their bargain with the miller to take the current price, at whatever time they choose to demand payment. This is a very common way of selling wheat in the country, and also occasionally barley, and answers both parties very well. The farmer should only be careful not to be too greedy, but to be contented with the price when it is really good, lest he miss his opportunity and be compelled to take a much lower price for wheat in the miller's hands than he might previously have obtained. Many instances of this kind have fallen under my observation. Of other work on the farm—hay, that will be required for working cattle and horses, should be got into the barns and stables that no time may be lost in going after it, when required for immediate use; cut also timber required for fencing, split the rails as soon as the frost is out of it sufficiently, and, as soon as the snow leaves the ground, repair the old fences and make new ones where required. Much valuable time will be saved by having all such work executed before the fields are ready to be ploughed and sown.

The close approach of spring now renders it necessary to look to all the farming implements and tools, and to see that they are in the best possible working order. The plough irons should be relaid and sharpened, the harrow teeth pointed, and the harness repaired, if necessary, oiled, and put in good working order. Every farmer should provide himself with a full assortment of working implements—ploughs, harrows, cultivators, drill-barrow, or sowing machine, roller, &c. When new implements are required, get them of the best quality and the best pattern, and as light as possible for the team, consistent with strength and effectiveness. Every description of seed required for spring sowing, should now be procured, and of this the very best quality of each kind. Let it be also perfectly cleaned and free from every impurity of all kinds, whether the seeds of weeds, or destructive insects. The importance of this precaution can scarcely be overrated.

In regard to the preparation of the land itself, for spring crops, we, in Canada, must of course wait till such time as the disappearance of the frost leaves it, in a fit state to admit of the commencement of operations. From observations recorded for a good many years, I find that in this part of Canada, spring ploughing, as a general rule, may be commenced at some period between say the last of March and the middle of April, the higher situations, and the light and dry soils, admitting of the earliest commencement. The earliest spring ploughing that I recollect seeing,