

## PARSNIPS FOR STOCK.

MR. EDITOR,—Having seen it stated that parsnips were more nutritious as food for cattle, pigs, &c., than turnips or carrots, I sowed an extra quantity in my garden last season, and had a good crop. I found that pigs have a great affection for them, for on one occasion they found the garden gate open, and passed by everything else to feed on the parsnips. They seemed crazy to get at them. Now, sir, is not this fondness a strong proof that parsnips are *good* for pigs? Instinct seldom errs in such matters. What I wish to know is, whether they are good for *fattening* as well as mere feeding purposes. Will they fatten quickly, and will the meat be of good flavour, &c.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Etobicoke, January 22nd, 1856.

REMARKS.—There can be no doubt that parsnips are a nutritious as well as healthful food for stock of all kinds—cattle, horses, pigs, and even poultry. We have not tried them sufficiently for fattening purposes to speak from our own experience, but there is abundant evidence on the point from the experience of others. A good authority informs us that—“when parsnips are given to milch cows with a little hay, in the winter season, the butter is found to be of as fine a color and excellent flavor as when the animals are feeding in the best pastures. As parsnips contain six per cent. more mucilage than carrots, the difference may be sufficient to account for the superior fattening, as well as butter-making quality of the parsnip.” Another observes, “that in the fattening of cattle the parsnip is found equal if not superior to the carrot, performing the business with as much expedition, and affording meat of exquisite flavor, and of a highly juicy quality; the animals eat it with much greediness. The parsnips are given in the proportion of about 30 pounds weight, morning, noon and night; the large ones being split into three or four pieces, and a little hay supplied in the intervals of these periods. The result of experiment has shown, that not only in neat cattle, but in the fattening of hogs and poultry, the animals become fat much sooner, and are more healthy than when fed with any other root or vegetable; and that, besides the meat is more sweet and delicious.”

## TAKE CARE OF THE LIVE STOCK.

The severity of the weather should remind the farmer of his duty to his domesticated animals. Cleanliness and shelter are quite as necessary as food, if animals are to *thrive*. It is a fact fully established by experience, and explained by science, that animals will do better with a smaller amount of food, when comfortably housed, than when exposed to the rigours of the weather, with the best and greatest amount of fodder that can be given them. When exposed a large amount of what the animal eats simply goes to sustain the natural temperature of the body, instead, as it otherwise would do, of forming muscle and fat. Hence it is the interest of the cattle feeder to provide clean, warm, and comfortable buildings for his stock, during winter. Yet how often do we see, during the most inclement weather, cattle shivering beside some miserable fence, or