

The somewhat unusual length of the above mentioned communications, and of the others not especially alluded to, must serve as an apology for curtailing our usual monthly remarks under the heading of this article. This, however, is of the less consequence, as the work to be performed on the farm during this month is, to a great extent merely a continuation of that for the last two months. Cattle, however, will require increased attention and a liberal supply of nourishing fodder, lest they fall off too much in condition as the trying weather of spring approaches. Early lambing ewes also will require to be carefully tended. Let those that show symptoms of yearning be shut up in a warm room in the evening, lest the newly dropped lambs perish during the cold of a February night. It is necessary, also, to see that the ewes have a liberal supply of milk to support their lambs, and if not, that the lambs be assisted by a little cows' milk, either warm from the cow, or warmed artificially at the fire. When large flocks are to be attended to, the shepherd may carry a little milk in a vessel inside the breast of his coat, in order to keep it of the proper temperature. A few turnips or mangel wurzel, along with sweet nourishing hay, will be useful in stimulating the flow of milk from the dam, and in a few days, by careful attention, the lamb will, generally, be able to get about with its mother.

One important branch of work during this month, in portions of the country where timber is still abundant, will be the splitting of rails, and drawing them while the ground is still hard, to the places where they will be required for fencing in the spring. In settlements of older date, where other expedients have to be adopted than the common rail fence, the getting lumber from the saw mill, and cedar or oak posts for fencing, will engage attention. A plan of fence proposed by Mr. John Wade of Cobourg, as given in the Report of the Hamilton Farmers' Club, in a late number of the *Agriculturist*, is deserving of trial, and would, we think, be found strong and economical.

The making of maple sugar, will probably take place to some extent during this month, in portions of the country where the maple tree is

still abundant. Having in former volumes of the *Agriculturist* given full details of the most approved mode of manufacturing this article, we will not allude to it at length now. But it will be worth while to take pains to make a good article, that will either be pleasant to use, or that will command a ready sale. In order to do this, it is necessary to observe perfect cleanliness in all parts of the operation, regularity in gathering the sap, and to take care to avoid burning in the boiling. It is worth the farmer's attention also to take care and not injure his maple trees any more than can be avoided, as the day may arrive when a wanton destruction of the native growth of the forest, will be regretted.

But soon the approach of blustering and active Spring, will call upon the farmer to rouse up all his energies, for the operations of that busy season. Let him not then be caught "napping," and let no arrears of winter work then cause him to loose even a day in getting his seed into the ground, as soon as it is in a proper condition of warmth and dryness to receive it.

THE SMITHFIELD FAT CATTLE SHOW.

This world-renowned Club held its Annual Exhibition in the Bazaar in Baker Street, on the 7th, 8th and 9th days of December 1853, and as usual attracted a large degree of public attention. We condense, for the information of our readers, a few of the more prominent features of the Show, from two of the highest Agricultural authorities in England, the *Mark Lane Express* and the *Agricultural Gazette*.

The cattle department was well sustained as a whole, each breed having animals of superior excellence, and the *over feeding* practice, against which numerous and loud objections were formerly made, appears now to be discontinued. Most of the animals were so fed as best to suit the purposes of the butcher, as affording wholesome and agreeable food, and at the same time indicating the characteristic points of their breeding and fattening properties.

Our readers will recollect that for the past few years an increasingly keen competition has been kept up at the Smithfield Show, between