

ON THE CHOICE OF STALLIONS.

To the Editor of the Agriculturist

Sir,—As the time is approaching when the choice of stallions must necessarily call for some attention from the farmers of Canada, perhaps a few hints may not now be out of place.

Whether the breeding and raising of horses will continue to be as profitable as it has formerly been, remains to be seen.

When beef and pork were under 20s. per 100lbs, cows from 8 to 12 dollars, Oxen 40 or 50 dollars a yoke, sheep a dollar each, oats less than a shilling a bushel, and other kinds of grain low in proportion, and no cash at even those low prices, nothing was more profitable than rearing young horses. I write from experience, I have found a good young horse worth more to me than a good crop of wheat. Things however are changed, and now when beef and pork are from 7 to 10 dollars per 100 lbs, cows from 25 to 50 dollars each, oxen from 120 to 160 dollars a yoke, sheep 5 or 6 dollars each, oats 2s. 6d. to 3s. per bushel, and other grain high in proportion, and all commanding cash, it is for the farmer to consider, whether the rearing of horses (even at their present high price) is as profitable as other stock.

One thing however is evident, and that is this,—it will never pay to raise poor horses, and for that reason breeders of horses ought to be more careful in the choice of stallions than they have generally been heretofore.

In this section of the country the worst stallions have generally most to do, merely because they are the cheapest, and those stallions that are calculated to improve the stock, have but little to do, unless they travel over a great extent of country; that the same penny wise and pound foolish system prevails in many parts of Canada is evident, from the number of miserable stallions we find all over the country, many of them having nothing to recommend them but the volubility of the groom, and it is certainly surprising how they sometimes impose upon the farmers, if their horse is spavined (for many of them are) the groom has some other name for it, a kick or something else. If he is blind, it has either been by some inflammation when a colt, or he has drawn himself blind, if he is low in flesh, it is on account of his great ambition and his having so much to do, in fact the groom will give a reason for every defect and actually gets some farmers to believe that those very defects show that *theirs* is a great horse. If they happen to get a farmer to patronize them who is considered a judge, it has a wonderful effect, and they often give such farmers the service of their horse gratis for the purpose of gulling others; one thing however is remarkable and that is this,—that these grooms seldom run down horses equally worthless as their own, but if there is a horse in their district calculated to improve the breed of horses, at all events if there is one that has been engaged by some Agricultural Society, that horse, and that horse alone, comes in for all their abuse, and it is surprising how much they are listened to. The time has now come when farmers must shun such miserable horses, and if that is only done, we will soon see their places filled up by a better class.

I do not intend to say anything about the different breed of horses which we have