

with a covering of sand upon each layer. The singular advantages of this mode of treatment are these: 1. The sand keeps the apples from the air, which is essential to their preservation. 2. The sand checks the evaporation of the apples, thus preserving their full flavor—at the same time any moisture yielding by the apples (and some there will be) is absorbed by the sand, so that the apples are kept dry, and all mustiness is prevented. My pippins in May and June are as fresh as when first picked; and even the ends of the stems look as if just separated from the twig."

CROSS-BRED SHEEP.

A friend of mine purchased 12 months back a number of Welch mountain ewes, the average price being about 13s each. They were immediately put to a strong Southdown ram, and produced in due season some very strong and fine lambs. These being kept well, were soon fit for market; and when slaughtered weighed from 7 to 10 lbs. a quarter, and sold at an average price of 20s each. Some of the ewes have been killed off this autumn, and realised about the same amount. This I think is not a bad speculation, and one which may be copied with advantage, especially by those who have hilly poor land to manage. To see the lambs, especially the single ones, after they were six weeks or two months old was quite laughable, for some of them were larger than the dam, and as is too frequently the case with overgrown children of the genus *homo*, looked like sucking the parent in good earnest. That the breed of small sheep should be much improved in size by crossing with larger rams is quite in the same nature of things, for we see the same effect from similar cases throughout the animal kingdom. An increase of size is certain, and I should imagine a cross of the Southdown and Welch mountain breeds could not be bad in quality—at least of the lamb I can speak from a "knife and fork" experiment, and it was excellent; and perhaps in the spring of next year I may be able to give a similar opinion upon the mutton.—*W. P. Ayes, South Wales.*

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—The *Mark Lane Express* proposes that there be held a dead-meat exhibition, comprising carcases of cattle and sheep of different breeds, the object being to ascertain the relative quality of the meat from each, and their relative value according to their weight. It is proposed to take five Devons, five Herefords and five Short-horns, together with the same number of sheep and pigs from each class, have the carcases weighed and then cut them up according to market rules, and the divisions weighed in lots according to the prices they bring, so that the proportion of the best parts to coarser and offal may be known. This is all very well, but we would carry out the comparison still further, by

having specimen pieces from one animal or more of each breed cooked and served to good judges, so that they could speak as to the quality from the best evidence.

Drainage.—I may be asked why I attach so much importance to drainage. Why, you might as well ask me why I attach so much importance to circulation, vital or monetary. Stagnant water, or stagnated air, are as ruinous to the plants as they would be to our own vitality. Fix a cork in the drainage hole of your flower pot, and you will soon have a practical illustration of my meaning. The sallow and bilious plant (like many turnip crops I know upon undrained land) will show by their expression what is denied to them in speech. This is not the occasion to enter into subterranean examination of gravity, capillary attraction, aeration, or filtration, much less of all those affectionate or repulsive interchanges, that turn air, water, and earth, into food for man and beast; but be assured, circulation is vitality—stagnation death and ruin.—*Mechi.*

PREPARATION OF SKINS.—John Taylor, of London, has taken out a patent for the use of the brains of animals in the preparation of fine skins, as a substitute for the yolk of eggs which is now used. The brains are dissolved in warm water, and the solution is then strained, after which it is used either alone or mixed with flour until it assumes a pasty appearance like the yolk of eggs. The quality of inferior kinds of skins are improved to render them fit for glove-making by placing them in a close vessel and forcing in a solution of animal brains with a pump, so as to force it through the pores of the skins.

We believe our American Indians use the brains of the animals which they kill in the chase, for the purpose of preserving their skins and rendering them fit for moccasins, &c.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Farmer's Journal*.

The President of the Board of Agriculture presents his compliments to the Publisher of the *Farmer's Journal*, and understanding that a letter, lately received by him, addressed to the Board by the Chairman of the Local Committee at Quebec, is to appear in the next number, begs to express his great regret that any proceedings of the Board should have called forth such an ebullition of angry feeling as is therein exhibited. To point out the errors and omissions of this document would be a very easy matter, but he refrains from doing so, in the first place because the letter has not yet been submitted to the Board, and in the second place, because in his opinion such a course would only tend to increase irritation in a quarter, where it is his wish, as it is his duty, to endeavour to allay it.

MONTREAL MARKET PRICES.

Rates at which produce is purchased from the Farmers.

FRIDAY, 30th March, 1855.

Hay per 100 bundles, 13 to \$14.
Straw do 6 to \$7.
Fresh Butter, per lb., from 1s 3d to 1s 6d.
Salt Butter, do from 1s 2d to 1s 3d.
Country Cheese, from 7d to 9d.
Wheat from 11s to 12s.
Barley, from 4s 9d to 5s.
Rye, 5s.
Oats, from 2s 9d to 3s.
Indian Corn from 5s 9d to 6s.
Buckwheat, from 5s to 6s.
Peas, from 5s 3d to 5s 6d.
Beef, per 100 lbs, from 6 to \$9.
Mess Pork, 16 \$16½.
Mutton, per carcase, from 3 to \$6½.
Lamb, do from 2 to \$3.
Veal, 2½ to \$4½.
Eggs, from 1s 2d to 1s 3d.

NEW PRINTS.

CRONSTADT with a Key. £0 6 3
Delby's Sketches in the Baltic, each, 0 5 0
Bird's-Eye View of the City of Varna, with Key. 0 6 3
Les Deseigneurs du Droit et de la Liberte de l'Europe, 0 6 3
H. M. S. Driver and Yachts, Gondola and Esmeralda off Cronstadt, 0 9 0
English Fleet entering the Great Belt, March 24th, 1851, 0 9 0
The "Arrogant" and "Heck" Destroying the Batteries at Eckness, May 20th, 1851.

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