

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsworthy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

FARMER, SHUBENACABIE. — In reference to your communication noticed last week, we now append the article we then referred to:—

"I believe in dehorning cattle for the following reasons, viz.: Horns are not necessary to the health, comfort or welfare of domestic animals. In a wild state horns were provided in nature for self-protection. In a domesticated state horns are not only unnecessary but dangerous both to man and beast. Having lost valuable animals and come near losing my own life and the life of a child by cows supposed to be perfectly docile, and frequently seeing accounts from the public press of persons killed by domestic animals, I feel that my opinion is based on positive evidence. I know by experience cattle may be dehorned without injury to health or any useful quality, and that cattle so treated become docile and easy to handle.

We dehorned three large bulls and turned them into the corral together, and it was as good as a circus to see them perform. They immediately started in for a fight, and the air resounded with their battle-cry while they covered themselves with dirt. They soon discovered that their power for mischief was gone, and became gentle to each other and a child can handle them. One of them had the habit of taking a gate on his horns and walking through at pleasure. His second move was for the gate—he placed his head in position to take the gate on his horns and raised it up in the usual way, but the gate did not rise. He stepped back and looked at it in astonishment. He tried it three times, when it dawned on his understanding that his power had departed, and he made the welkin ring with a cry of disappointment. It is important to sever the horn from the head of the animal in just the right place to secure the best results, which requires some skill and a knowledge of the structure of the head and horn, but this can be easily acquired. The skull of a cow, calf and bull will enable a person to see where the cut should be made. H. H. Haaf has published a work of 48 pages on the subject of dehorning, price 30 cents, that is worthy of a perusal by every cattle-raiser. He has also invented tools for dehorning well suited to the work, which he will furnish at a low price if addressed to Atkinson, Ill. Mr. Haaf says: 'The saw the writer uses is a pointed tool so made as to operate at the very place, to prevent bleeding or growth of horn afterward. On this depends the whole operation. The gouge for calves works automatically, and it takes but a moment to make a mulley of any calf.' These tools and the book containing full directions for dehorning may be had of G. G. Wickson & Co., 3 and 5 Front St., San Francisco. Being in no way interested in the sale of the work or tools referred to, they are mentioned for the benefit of farmers. The time is not far distant when horns will disappear from our herds, and H. H. Haaf will be regarded as a public benefactor."

I. C. STEELE.

There is no question of the advantage, comfort and pleasure of having every animal about you as tame as possible. On this account alone, independently of the insurance tameness affords against accidents due to vice, we should imagine the dehorning of cattle to be worth serious attention. Entire animals of many species inherit a certain fierceness, and the heredity of thousands of generations is only to be supplanted by the continuous cultivation of new and amended instincts, which, once begun and assiduously fostered, will in their turn acquire the wonderful power of heredity. Deprivation of the powers or instruments of offence is a by no means despicable agent in the reduction of vice.

The foregoing communication illustrates the effect on a bull, and if any one ever tried the experiment of cutting the claws of a bumptious tom-cat, he may recall a similar softening of manners.

But it is early training and the perfect confidence in man which comes of continual association, and the experience of nothing but kindness at his hands, which is the great cultivator of good animal dispositions; and not only of dispositions, but of enhanced intelligence.

The horses of civilized nations are often brutally brought up, and more brutally treated when they are grown to maturity. But the Arab, who, as a colt, shares the camels' hair tent of his owner, over whose body the children scramble and play, and on whose back a child proportioned to his strength, is set as soon as he can carry anything, is gentle as a lamb, and as intelligent as a dog. Patience and kindness would eventually make it the same with all animals, and the following extract from the *American Poultry Yard* only affords a fresh illustration of the virtue of the principle—

"Keep fowls tame. You cannot afford to have them wild. They will not pay as well, lay as well, or afford one-half the satisfaction that a tame flock would. If there is anything that would disgust a fancier, it is to see a lot of hens flying wildly here and there whenever a man approaches. We hate wild hens.

All breeds can be rendered tame by proper treatment, but some breeds require more care than others to produce this result. Generally speaking, the larger breeds, like the Brahmas, Cochins, Plymouth Rocks, and the like, are more easily tamed than the smaller ones, like the Leghorns and Hamburgs. We have seen very tame Leghorns and Hamburgs, however. We call to mind a Brown Leghorn cock that would approach its owner, a woman, and upon being told to crow for his dinner, would straighten up and crow; he would lie down and roll over, also, upon being bidden to do so. We know of a flock of Golden Spangled Hamburgs that will eat out of the hand of their owner without a sign of fear. These cases are instanced to show

what the right kind of treatment can produce. It is not uncommon to find Brahmas so tame that they can be picked up anywhere. We know of one of the leading breeders of Asiatics whose Brahmas are so tame that they act as if they expected to be caught, and liked the idea, when their owner appears.

Fowls can be rendered tame easily. The observing of a few rules is necessary:—

1. Never frighten them.
2. Speak quietly in their presence.
3. Never make a quick movement towards a fowl, unless it be a sudden, short movement in catching one, and then never miss your bird.

The advantages of having tame fowls are many, besides the general satisfaction experienced. It is convenient to have them tame if you wish to show a particular bird to a customer. He would like to closely examine it, and to do so he must have the birds in his hands. It is often, also, necessary to catch fowls for examination as to some symptoms of disease. If you have to chase them all around the yard in order to catch one, you either do not catch the fowl or you waste a great deal of precious time; there is some wear upon your clothing and a good deal upon your temper. Fowls, too, will actually keep on less food, lay more eggs, fatten more easily, and in every way prove more profitable for being tame. If you doubt it, try it and be convinced. A single season's trial will satisfy you, and you will never have any more wild fowls in your yards."

## OUR COSY CORNER.

With pride, but without undue elation, the *Delineator* claims, and is allowed, to be the first and best of the magazines devoted essentially to fashion and the household. It also claims to be the *only* one which owes its immense patronage to its intrinsic merit, and not to the extrinsic assistance of premiums, club rates, etc.

In the twelve months ending December, 1887, the names of 30,000 *bona fide* subscribers have been added to the list, and the first edition for each month is now 200,000 copies. The increase would be considered an enormous one in any publication, and procured by whatever means; but in a magazine that possessed already a large clientage, and which resorted to no adventitious aids to increase its circulation, but kept one object steadily in view—to please, satisfy and instruct its readers—the gain must be looked upon as abnormal.

A keen appreciation of fine furs is often cited as an evidence of inherited good taste. It is a liking by no means limited to womankind, for not a few men share the admiration for the beautiful warm skins that show so many different hues and have such an air of substantial elegance. In these days of shams and imitations the eyes rest with pleasure upon the rich sable and seal, which bear the unmistakable stamp of genuineness and give to the wearer enfolded in their warm embrace, the added satisfaction that comes from the charm of reality. Fine furs more than anything else attest the vulgarity of imitation; an inexpensive fur may be in perfect taste, but the imitation of a fine one will make an entire toilette appear shabby. Like silver, real laces and cachemires, a fine fur belongs to more than one generation. Purchased by one's grandmother, its days of elegance and usefulness do not end with one's self, for it may still form the treasured legacy of some favorite child.

Seal-skin, the fur that is always good form, invariably becoming and suited to all places and times, is, if possible, in greater vogue than ever before. The preferred variety is very dark—indeed, as dark as can be made; and when compared with some of the lighter coats, the superior beauty of the deep tone is fully appreciated. The seal sacques are from forty to forty five inches long, and have the shawl collar and the deep cuffs whose suitability was attested by their prominence last season. The collar can be drawn up closely if one prefers it, so that the throat will be amply protected in extremely cold weather. The sacques are made up plainly when new, the use of trimming being reserved until they have been worn some time and need remodelling, then, if a little care is shown in the selection of trimming, the garment will look quite new, for one of the bright-hued furs will make the seal appear darker and freshen it in every way.

SOME OF THE NOVELTIES.—A barbaric-looking but beautiful girdle formed of round plates linked together, enamelled in light blue and with a moonstone in the center of each.

A *bonbonniere* of Etruscan gold coiled about it a serpent, with its head raised above the diamond-framed lid.

An enormous paper knife of ivory with a handle of finely carved silver wrought with intricacy of pattern and perfection of detail peculiar to the silversmiths of India.

A pair of black satin slippers with a brilliant Rhine-stone set on the tip of each toe against the smooth background of satin.

A fan of gray kid with sticks of dark pearl—the richness of the materials rendering decoration unnecessary.

A narrow band of gold the width of a wedding ring to be put on the arm of one's betrothed; when once clasped it can only be taken off by breaking.

A broad-brimmed, low-crowned hat of deep red felt trimmed with loops of black moire ribbon.

A silver top to a scent-bottle in which there is a little ball like an electric button; press it, and from one side the sweet water is sprayed upon the handkerchief.