

THE FARMERS DEPARTMENT.

GARDENERS WORK FOR OCTOBER.

Gardeners are too apt to suspend the use of the hoe, and other means of keeping the upper hand of weeds too early in autumn. In consequence of this piece of negligence, purslane, pigweed, couch grass, and other vegetable intruders give us troublesome practical exemplification of the old adage, that "*Lazy folks takes the most pains.*" Every weed which escapes extirpation, becomes the parent of a numerous progeny of pestiferous plants, which spring up like the heads of the Hydra of fabulous lore, and monopolize the soil at the expense of every thing which is good for anything. Let, therefore, the provident tiller recollect that a scratch of his hoe in time, will save nine. But, we will give a little rhyming, (not poetry) on this subject, with the hope that the similarity of sounds at the close of our couplets, will aid the memory of those for whose use the maxims are intended.

Since the best way of weeding

Is to prevent weeds from seeding,

The least procrustation

Of any operation

To prevent the semination

Of noxious vegetation

Is a source of tribulation.

And this, in truth, a fact is,

Which gardeners ought to practice,

And tillers should remember,

From April to December.

REMARKS ON LIVE STOCK.

The following from a *Treatise on Live Stock*, by George Culey an eminent English Herdsman may suggest useful ideas to American Farmers.

"In the first place, it would seem that the largest domestic animals are not the best, or not advantageous to rear or feeder; because we generally find, that the large big boned cattle and sheep require more and better food in proportion to support and feed them, than those of a middling size and small bones; and the larger, bigger boned, and clumsier they are formed the more unprofitable they are, while, on the contrary, the truer they are formed, and the finer the bone, the more profitable, as they eat not only less food in proportion, but feed more readily.

I aver that no large boned animal will feed so quick, or cover so readily and thick with fat flesh as one with a *small bone*, if well formed. This is the criterion—this is the main principle that we found our judgment upon, respecting all animals, which are to be fattened for the support of mankind; and we can justly say that this judgment is confirmed by near forty years' experience. Notwithstanding this assertion is made with some degree of positiveness, yet we are not unconscious of its being a *new doctrine* to the generality of breeders in this Island; and, consequently, will appear surprising and strange to many old breeders and graziers. But I have not a remaining doubt, if the advocates for large bones will make fair and candid trials, the small bones will win or gain the prize nine times out of ten, or rather every time; may I be permitted to declare that the small boned, true proportioned animal will pay 4*l.* while the big boned one will only pay 3*l.* for what it eats. When I assert this I would wish to be understood, that I mean from the time of calving or lambing, to the time of killing for the market, because I look upon the grazer, who buys in and feeds, and he that breeds and feeds as two very different people.

It is the latter of those that the public are obliged to for that useful observation, of small boned animals excelling large boned ones in feeding; because he sees, watches, and examines the various pushes and improvements from the beginning to the end; while the grazer, who buys in his stock is easy, in a great measure, how they are bred, so long as they pay him for feeding. A plain, course, ugly animal may pay him more than a fine well made one; because he buys the course one at a much less price in proportion, and it is of little consequence to him as an individual; but, to his country, to community at large, it is a matter of prodigious importance, much more than has in general been thought of, because the more meat and the less bone, you can produce from a given quantity of pasturage, turnips, cabbage, &c. the better surely, and more mouths you can feed.

The beef or mutton is finer grained, and sells higher by the pound; it is worth more to the consumer than the other, because it affords more and better food, less bone; and supposing the poor were under a necessity of buying the coarse parts in a dear time, it is worth more to him in proportion than the course of the large boned ones, because, though still course it is finer than the others, and has less bone; in fact it is the cheapest and best eating to the rich, to the manufacturer, and to the poor.

Even in regard to horses intended for the draught or saddle, those I presume are best in general that are of the truest proportion in respect to bone, carcass or form of a *middling* size. I think we may venture to assert, that in those kinds of animals now under consideration, and perhaps in most others, there is a certain symmetry, or proportion of parts, which is best adapted a particular size in each kind. All those of each kind that are above this size, we find disproportioned, according to the size they attain to; and in the degree that they are disproportioned, so is their live production; we find the less active, less strong in proportion, and always less able to endure hardship or fatigue. We find all great horses tire sooner than middling sized ones; they are slower in motion, they are more subject to disorders and consequently wear sooner out.

In neat cattle or sheep, we, in general, find that the largest are the tenderest, and most liable to complaints; that they require more and nicer fare, are slower in feeding, and worse butchers meat when fed; and they are wintered, or inclement seasons, much worse than the well proportioned ones: therefore it is these *well proportioned, handsome animals* that we would recommend to the attention of the breeders to choose both *males and females* from if possible, or as near to them as may be. It perhaps, has been owing to the idea of largeness or the wish to breed the biggest in the different kinds of domestic animals, that has so long prevented our breeders from selecting and distinguishing the most valuable kinds: for so universal was this idea, and so much were we blinded by it, that we did not perceive which were the most valuable animals of each kind. We had no conception of any animal being valuable or good that was not *great*. We could not separate those two ideas of good and great.

What attention we have since made and proportion, which so essentially characterizes the valuable kinds of each species, and which seldom, or ever, fail of being the hardiest, and the best thrivers. In short, it was left to this age to make those nicer distinctions, which constitute the able breeder and discerning judge; and the more those distinctions are attended to and examined, the more they will be pursued; in consequence of which improved notions, our

breeders must now necessarily follow those kinds that are most valuable.

Much has been said of late years about short legged stock being the best, particularly neat cattle and sheep; nothing would go down once but short legs. That little short legged, dwarfish breed of sheep, so much, (though undeservedly) run upon a few years ago are very properly called by a considerable breeder an acquaintance of mine, the gentleman's sheep, for though, to those who are not judges, they have a pretty enough appearance, yet they will not bear examining by an attentive and able judge—I mean him who judges by his fingers as well as eyes; a method which is out of the gentleman's line.

I wish however to caution breeders against the other extreme. I would have them recollect the old proverb that all extremes are wrong. Attentive breeders of this day, have apprehended, that some sensible distinction with regard to animals fed and slaughtered for the use of mankind between what they call essentials and non-essentials. They give the former title to the back and sides in particular, as well as the whole proportion of the carcass, always taking in the inclination to make fat.—The non-essentials are the legs, ears, horns, tail, &c. and even wool and hides; for though these are valuable in themselves, yet they are more to be dispensed with (that is their form size and proportions are of less consequence) than the back, sides, &c. Good carcasses are united with thick or thin hides, under long, short, coarse or fine wool, with long, short, thick or thin horns, or ears, &c. but no good carcass ever existed without the back broad, and sides round, and due proportion and symmetry. But the parts termed non-essentials are not to be quite disregarded; for though they are not properly essential, yet they are very often strong marks, or indications of good or bad thivers, &c. as, for instance a thick hide seldom covers a quick-feeding carcass, or a heavy fleece a ready feeding or fine grained carcass of mutton.—Again, fine, small and straight bones in the legs, and thin hides and pelts are almost certain signs of a kindly breed, and fine-grained beef or mutton, &c. Thus we find the thick pelts, and heavy wool in Lincolnshire cover the coarsest grained mutton we know of; while a variation of the same breed in Leicestershire, highly improved, having considerably less wool, and very thin pelts, are quicker feeders and their mutton is as fine grained and sweet as a mountain sheep.

ITEMS FOR HOUSE KEEPERS.

Recipe for a Sore Throat.—Take a glass of olive or sweet oil, and half a glass of spirits of turpentine; mix them together, and rub the throat externally, wearing flannel round it at the same time. It proves most effectual when applied early.—*The Mirror.*

A salve made of carrots grated fine, simmered in lard till quite brown, and then separated by a strainer, is considered excellent for chilblains.

If a fellow or runround be coming on your finger, you can do nothing better than to soak it thoroughly in hot lye.

Lard which has been melted and cooled in fresh water four or five times in succession, and then simmered with sliced onions, and strained, makes a most excellent salve for wounds inflamed by taking cold.—*Fragrant Houses.*