

## The Farm and the Fireside.

### MILK COWS.

I have never kept more than from twelve to fourteen cows, and so far as my experience goes, I have come to the conclusion that it is best to keep good ones, and no more than I can keep well. When they come to the barn in the fall, I am careful to give them a change of feed as much as possible. To those that do not give milk, I give the poorer hay, and occasionally corn husks, stalks, &c., until about six weeks before calving, when I give them better hay and some grain. By this way of managing, the flesh that the cows put on by her own industry in the summer, is easily kept on through the winter, with a little extra care, which enables her to bring us a good, strong, healthy calf, worth at least five dollars when four weeks old. To the cows that I milk through the winter, I give good hay, giving them for a change a foddering of clover, husks and rowen [if we have it] almost every day. The clover I always intend to use up before the first of March. I feed them the clop twice a day, mixing a few hours before feeding, giving them about four quarts of shorts and two quarts of cobmeal a day, with about half a bushel of cut hay of poor quality, with a table-spoonful of salt at each time of feeding. This I think produces more milk than the same quantity of grain given in any other way. Great care should be taken not to excite the cows when driving to water or pasture. If the boys must drive them, do not let one drive at a time. Kindness pours out the milk and lays on the fat. Kicking cows are always plenty where there are kicking milkers. I know it by experience. It is an old and true saying, that "good pastures make fat calves," and it is equally true that much feed makes much milk. As to the different breeds of cows I have not had much experience. I have one that is called the cream-pot breed, which is one of the best I have ever owned for milk. There are quite a number of half-blooded Ayrshires in the neighborhood, which have the name and appearance of being good milkers. I am rather partial to the old native breed for milking when I can get the right pattern; that is, I want a cow of good size, one that will make five and a half or six hundred of milk when fatted; wide between the eyes, small horns, long slender neck, head inclined downward, rather a thin skin, broad across the kidneys, small tail, small flat-fish leg, the udder large, running well forward and back, equally quartered, and the teats well apart, thin thighs, and last, though not least, a large crooked milk vein running well forward, with a large hole at the end. One thing more should be taken into consideration, and that is, the disposition, which is almost always bad by the countenance.

Tameness and docility of temper greatly enhance the value. One that feeds at ease, and does not break over the fences, and is kind to her associates, will always yield more milk than one of the opposite disposition.

When I buy a cow of the above description, I am pretty sure I have got a good one, and think the above marks are a very safe guide to purchase by.—*New England Farmer.*

### Fruit Trees.

All agree, says a leading cultivator of fruit in Massachusetts, that the proper and only judicious method of preparing the soil for fruit trees is, by sub-soiling or trenching the earth to the depth of eighteen inches or two feet, and that, during this process, the upper and lower soils, together with the appropriate manure, should be thoroughly incorporated. The cultivator who is not willing to take these preliminary measures had better abandon the project of raising fruit trees, and save both his time and money.

Dowling states that the best compost for fruit trees is peat and ashes, (five bushels of fresh or ten bushels of leached,) a wagon load of peat, containing lime, potash, and phosphates.

Let this compost lie a fortnight. Add to every car load two bushels of air-slacked lime for Apple Trees.

Add half bushel of ground bones, two bushels of ashes or five pounds of potash dissolved in water for Pear Trees.

Add half bushel of lime, half bushel of ashes and a peck of plaster, for Grape Vines.

This compost may be put on two inches thick, and forked in, so as to cover the ground so far as the roots extend.

The proportions will vary according to the quantity of compost to be made.

By the analysis of Dr. Emmons, the ash of the apple tree contains more than one-half lime; and lime largely predominates in the measure. The ash of the pine tree contains the largest amount of the phosphate of lime; so bone dust should preponderate in the manure.—*Valley Farmer.*

**BIGLER AND NEBRASKA.**—Geo. Bowman, who is Gov. Bigler's Adjutant-General and may be regarded as the exponent of his views, is editor of the Bedford Gazette, from which we copy the following:

The *factions* [opponents of the Nebraska Bill] may cry "REPUB," but the ery will receive no countenance from the people. These *alarmists* inside a similar ery in reference to the Tariff of 1846. The Independent Treasury, the Bill admitting California into the Union, and all the other great measures which now are the pride of the American people—consequently their "cries" have become too stale to attract even a passing notice.

Mr. Bigler's Adjutant-General, "We'll."

Mr. Bigler's fifty Americans have taken charge of the Government. We are certainly getting a nice lot of questions to hand to settle with foreign countries. Here would seem to be three of them brought forward afresh in this one trial, in which Mexico, France, Nicaragua, Mosquitia and England at least, if no other nations, will have a finger.

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**ANOTHER NIAGARA ACCIDENT.**—There is a legend which has come down from the Indians that one life a year is demanded as a sacrifice to the Great Spirit of the Catawba. It is about three inches in length, by two in diameter, built of adobes, the walls being nearly half an inch thick. Inside is a projection, which nearly divides into two apartments about an inch in diameter. The inside is lined with a white down substance, not unlike velvet, and presents one of the cleanest and most tidy little households imaginable. But the most curious part of it is a door, which fits an aperture and closes it hemmatically. The door is secured by a hinge, formed of the same fibrous substance as the lining of the door, and upon which it swings with freedom. The door is occupied by a dozen little *tartarants*, which seem to subsist upon a yellow secreted substance, that appears upon the wall of the front apartment. The arrangement of the door for the protection of the house inmates, indicates great instinctive architectural knowledge. It is the intention of the finder to forward this curiosity to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington.

**GOOD PAY.**—One of the uniformed post-masters out in spiderland, who found among the post office laws a clause to the effect that each post master may be allowed two mills for delivering from his office, to a subscriber, each newspaper not chargeable with postage, sent in his bill to the department for delivery the only paper sent to his office, and told them that, as his wife was out of the article, they might send him a couple of coffee mills.

Tacking down Carpets is one of the most back-breaking jobs housekeepers are compelled to perform; and one of the most annoying things a poor devil of a husband has to encounter is a request to "help put down the carpet." In some places this sort of labor is avoided thus:—Iron rings are fastened in the floors when the carpets are laid, and they have large hooks in the binding, for which these rings are eyes; so that there is no taking out and mauling in of tacks; and carpets are raised and laid as noiselessly and easily as bed covers.

Silver is said to have been discovered in a stone quarry in Lancaster county, Pa.

**PORK & LARD.**—For sale by the barrel or hams.

By F. H. FORDHAM & CO.

### Letters of Marque.

This term is derived from the old Saxon word *merc*, signifying a boundary. It is used on the border countries between England and Scotland to denote the private reprisals that were frequently made, where property had been stolen. If, for example, a private ship from Scotland had been successful in carrying off spoil, in the time of general peace, and the authors of the injury were not known, the aggrieved party would apply to the War-dens of the borders for letters of marque, that is, permission to cross the boundary and make reprisals. This liberty was not considered as amounting to a declaration of war, though it frequently led to a contest between two of the border families. It meant, then, a liberty of reprisal.

In modern times, the term has been extended to permission granted to private individuals on these to make reprisals, where property has been illegally seized and no other mode of reparation exists. It is true in this sense that the issue of Letters of Marque against Spanish commerce was talked of in Congress after the Black Warrior affair.

I need not tell the chaps twice a day, mixing a few hours before feeding, giving them about four quarts of shorts and two quarts of cobmeal a day, with about half a bushel of cut hay of poor quality, with a table-spoonful of salt at each time of feeding. This I think produces more milk than the same quantity of grain given in any other way. Great care should be taken not to excite the cows when driving to water or pasture. If the boys must drive them, do not let one drive at a time. Kindness pours out the milk and lays on the fat. Kicking cows are always plenty where there are kicking milkers. I know it by experience. It is an old and true saying, that "good pastures make fat calves," and it is equally true that much feed makes much milk.

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—*North Amer.*

**STOES & STOVES.**—We learn from the Harrisburg Union, canvassing the State during the present season, taking ground in favor of the Nebraska Bill. We trust that this may prove true, as it is desirable that in such a crisis as the present, the people should know exactly how parties stand. The course pursued by the Democratic convention which nominated Governor Bigler was such as to leave the party in an equivocal position on this great measure of the Administration; and even now we have strong doubt whether the Governor will jeopardize his bill, notwithstanding the amendment of the Union. But whether the Governor does or does not defend this bill in his electioneering addresses, it should be borne in mind that the Union has thus a second time committed him to the policy of the administration. Being thus identified with the disturbers of the national peace and separating agitators, he deserves to be repaid accordingly at the ballot box.—*North Amer.*

**STOES & STOVES.**—A Southern man will be selected as Governor of Kansas, and one from the North will be put over Nebraska. The other appointments will be made up on the same principle. Slavery will be legislated into Nebraska within ten days after the Legislature meets. The Legislature will be appointed at Washington, as well as the executive officers; and all laws in which the conspirators here take an interest will be drafted at Washington, and passed as minister of course. The idea of foreign settlers or any others having any voice in the matter is laughed at at the White House. Atchison will in fact govern both territories. If by any chance, Benton should beat him in Missouri, Atchison will be chosen the first Senator from Kansas. In regard to Nebraska, the Northern territory, no great attention will be paid to it for some time. The principle, however, now established, will take slavery there, as well as into Kansas.

We have from New Orleans some additional items of California news, received by the El Dorado and Daniel Webster. The latter's party have surrendered themselves prisoners to the United States authorities. They have been carried to San Francisco and *liberated on parole!* As a very pretty offset to this, Mr. Dillon, the French Consul has been arrested on a charge of violating the neutrality laws, and bound in ten thousand dollars for trial. From the Isthmus we learn that the Mayor of San Juan has resigned, and the city government is dissolved. Probably Mr. Forbush's fifty Americans have taken charge of the Government. We are certainly getting a nice lot of questions to hand to settle with foreign countries. Here would seem to be three of them brought forward afresh in this one trial, in which Mexico, France, Nicaragua, Mosquitia and England at least, if no other nations, will have a finger.

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