

THE PRAIRIE FARMER

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Duke de Chartres. Denmark. Mastodon. Independence. Vidal.
JAMES A. PERRY'S GROUP OF IMPORTED DRAFT STALLIONS, IMPORTED BY HIM AUGUST 17th, 1870, FROM NORMANDY, FRANCE, and ENGLAND, to Clinton, Irroquois Co., Ills.

DESCRIPTION OF ANIMALS SHOWN IN ILLUSTRATION.

DUKE DE CHARTRES is five years old, a dark iron grey color, sixteen and one-half hands high, and weighs nineteen hundred pounds. He has fine style and action. He has a beautiful head and neck, deep shoulders, broad across the breast, hips, and stiff, heavy bone and muscle, and is in every respect a model draft horse.

DENMARK is four years old, of a light roan color, with dark legs, mane and tail, sixteen and one-half hands high, and weighs seventeen hundred and eighty pounds. Carries a heavy arched neck, high on the withers, short back, broad shoulders, with proportionate limbs and muscle. He has fine style and action, and shows remarkable speed for his size.

MASTODON was purchased in Essex County, England; is a pure bred English draft horse, three years old past, is a bright bay color; seventeen hands high, and weighed when he landed in New York nineteen hundred and

forty pounds. He has a beautiful head, with a fine arched neck, heavy bone and muscle, finely developed limbs, with good style and action. Girth eight feet and three inches, and measures more around the stifle than any other horse in the United States. Present weight twenty-two hundred pounds, and he is probably the largest stallion in this country. He has a symmetry of form that fits him for an artist's model.

INDEPENDENCE is five years old, iron grey color, sixteen hands high and weighs seventeen hundred pounds. He is very high on the shoulder, heavy breast, heavy limbs, short back, with a large loin, broad across the hip and stifle. The above cut is a perfect picture of this horse as seen by his many admirers. He is also lively and active in his movements.

VIDAL is five years old, a beautiful dapple grey color, seventeen hands high, and weighs seventeen hundred and fifty pounds. He has a very fine head and neck, symmetrical limbs, broad chest, deep through the shoulder,

short back, close ribbed, a full heavy loin, well coupled, long hip, broad across the stifle, of fine carriage and action, and is in every respect a horse that will suit the breeder of draft horses.

These horses are all of a quiet and gentle disposition, easily managed, and well broken to the harness, and were all selected with great care. They were all purchased and shipped at one time from Havre, France, on steamer Denmark, Capt. Forbes, Commander, being the last shipment of horses made after the breaking out of the Franco-Prussian war.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In a recent lecture, before the faculty and students, Professor A. J. Cook, spoke of the refining power of well tended gardens and lawns and trees. The great outlay of labor to beautify the college grounds, is more than paying its way by means of its esthetic influence upon the students and visitors.

We should study to make ourselves, our houses and surroundings agreeable. Contrast the effect upon young people of a well managed home, where there are beautiful trees and gardens, with a bleak yard abounding in weeds, briars, dead grass, mustard and a few poppies and sunflowers. Birds are an additional attraction; besides their money worth as insect eaters, their study and care beget in children, habits of mercy, kindness and purity. Birds in our yards at the college, are very abundant, for they enjoy undisturbed freedom and become so tame that it is often a matter of surprise to visitors. The students feel an ownership and are interested in their protection. The docility of cattle, sheep and other domestic animals, belonging to the college, has often been admired.

A large part of the lecture consisted in a plea for the birds. Even the robin, which strips our currant bushes, plunders our strawberries and takes nearly all of our cherries, for three months of the year, feeds itself and

young upon insects and worms exclusively. Numerous authorities were cited and facts given to prove that we should protect the cedar-bird, black-bird, jay, crow, sparrow and all other birds without exception. We have no birds which do not more than pay for the fruit they eat, by eating worms and slugs and insects.

It may be added that some members of the faculty differ with Professor Cook, on the wholesale approval of all birds.

The members of the chemistry class are jubilant over the passage of the bill by the legislature, granting money for a new laboratory. It is very much needed.

The present freshman class numbers over eighty members, and still they come. They are unusually well prepared. Over seventy-five per cent. of them are sons of farmers or mechanics. The largest freshman class of any former year, we are told, consisted of thirty-six students. On account of the peculiarity of the course of study, the faculty—some of them at any rate—do not wish to

see over two hundred students at a time in the college. Should the number become very large, they fear the labor system would not be as successful as at present.

Mr. Richard H. H. Jr., a former graduate of the college, has been appointed Secretary pro tempore, with full power to act in the place of the late Sanford Howard, Secretary of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture. For several years, Mr. H. H. has filled the position of assistant secretary with eminent success.

TREE PLANTING IN NEBRASKA.—The Blair Register says: Farmers are already preparing for tree planting. One day last week about 16,000 young trees passed through town on their way to farmers farther west in this county. One company of Swedes, from Bell Creek, had 12,000 cottonwood trees from their river bars, while the balance of the lot was in the hands of a farmer nearer by, and consisted of cottonwood, maple and box elder.