

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED
IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the 1st of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
- 2.—The essays will be judged by the ideas, arguments, conciseness and conformity with the subject, and not by the grammar, punctuation or spelling, our object being to encourage farmers who have enjoyed few educational advantages.
- 3.—Should one or more essays, in addition to the one receiving the first prize, present a different view of the question, a second prize will be awarded, but the payment will be in agricultural books. First prize essayists may choose books or money, or part of both. Selections of books from our advertised list must be sent in not later than the 15th of the month in which the essays appear. Second prize essayists may order books for any amount not exceeding \$3.00, but no balance will be remitted in cash. When first prize essayists mention nothing about books, we will remit the money.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Root Culture*, has been awarded to W. A. Hale, Sherbrooke, Que. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on the *Management of the Orchard*. Essays to be handed in not later than May 15.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Poultry Farming as an Occupation for Farmers' Wives and Daughters*. Essays to be handed in not later than June 15.

Post Office Orders.

We have received numerous complaints of late regarding money sent by P. O. Order from Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and, upon making inquiries, find that some people keep the order they get from the postmaster as a receipt instead of forwarding it to us. We have known instances where orders have been kept in this post office for over twelve months, after which they have been returned to the parties who procured them, when the mistake is explained. When remitting money care should be observed in writing the name and post office legibly. Please examine the label on your paper and see that it is marked '88.

The Position and Duty of the Farmer.

An address delivered by W. Weld, before the Agricultural Institute of the North Riding of Norfolk, at Waterford, on April 7th.

You, gentlemen, the farmers of Canada—particularly of this western portion of Ontario—have been truly blessed. Many of you or your ancestors procured your lands at a small price. This Province has been a garden of fertility, clothed with valuable timber and capable of producing the most profitable and varied crops with but little expense; we have one of the most healthful and invigorating climates; no dire pestilence or disease to man or beast has ever swept over our country; war or famine have been unknown to us; fruits and flowers have strewn our paths; prosperity, peace, happiness and contentment have been your lot. Truly it may be said you have a goodly heritage—an earthly paradise. What pleasure you experienced when clearing up field after field—when yearly some improvement was made in erecting a new house, or barn, or adding some additional luxury to your household. Some few may still be progressing, but many now begin to find it difficult to make things balance at the end of the year, particularly so if they reckon keeping up the fertility of the soil, the wear and tear of machinery, fences, buildings, etc. Your expenses of living are increasing, while too often crops are decreasing. The Provincial and Dominion debts are as mortgages on your farms; they are daily increasing, and the pay day will come. We should try to reduce both public and private expenses. Every bank or mercantile failure has to be borne in a great measure by you; the expense of every additional public officer or his increase of salary comes from you. Many public enterprises are commenced to make places for partisans; the needy office-seeker, personally, or by his money, engages the best talent to represent his side of the question to you with all the colors of the rainbow; they are united, and their object is to confute or confound any one opposed to increase of offices or increase of salaries. They are trained; they are too often under the direct pay received from your hard earnings to advocate greater burdens on your shoulders. Sometimes even some of you may be influenced by party spirit to lend your aid to measures which with due reflection your consciences would revolt against. You are made to bear a much greater proportion of public burdens than other callings. Stock jobbers and others can shirk money and fair taxation, but your properties can all be seen. Too many of the officers that you pay to look after your interests flinch from duty and use their influence

in shielding men and fostering measures that they well know are not for your interest.

These remarks may give offence to some, but when accepting your invitation I accepted it as the editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and as such I deem it my duty to speak plainly, as we believe we are now in a most precarious position, judging from the political atmosphere here and in other parts of the world. The present condition forbodes a state of serfdom, and the worst form of slavery. The depression of the agricultural class is claimed by some to have been the cause of the downfall of the Roman Empire. It is also said that the tax collector swept the last vestiges of the agriculturist from that once beautiful and fertile land of Palestine. The depression and poverty of tens of thousands of farmers in the Western States is now deplorable. Our heart has often throbbled with pity at the accounts from some of our agriculturists in our Eastern Provinces. Then to compare the high-fed, luxurious, numerous and increasing army of dead-head or useless officials, and the devices to extort money from you which are countenanced by them, has caused me sorrow.

YOUR DUTY.

This depends on the instruction you have received and on the creed you believe, or whether you accept any creed. The Brahmin, Mohammedan, Jew, Mormon, etc., etc., all have different creeds; the Protestants and Roman Catholics do not agree; the Conservatives and Reformers differ; Christians and Infidels are wide apart. If you are an Infidel, many would advise you to grab all you can; the canny Scot said, "Get money, honestly if you can." It is written that "Righteousness exalteth a nation." Do you believe it? Do you believe in the Bible? Do you believe the Decalogue? Was the Decalogue a command of God, or devised by men? Are there in all the statutes of our country any commands so admirably adapted for the government of mankind? I presume nearly all of you profess to be Christians, go to some church, and have a lively hope. Perhaps from a strong partizan feeling, you may be aiding or countenancing a person or combination that, by suppressing some facts and exaggerating others, may be termed a false witness; and yet we support such knowingly. Without truth, all other commands fail; righteousness will follow truth. It is admitted that agriculturists as a class are truthful, and have quite as sound judgment as any other class; that it must be from them that rulers of our country must come. Unite and elect the most reliable men to be office-holders. These institutions may become popular, useful, and the most powerful organizations in the land, if you select the most trustworthy men for your officers. It is not