

which he formed. At page 20 he says, "From Prescott to Kingston, and thence to Cobourg, the country is but partially cleared; very often the train shoots for many miles together through the primeval forest, a path having been cut in the woods for the railway track, and the felled trees and branches still lying where thrown, on both sides of the line." This latter assertion may be *literally* true, but Mr. Caird himself, as well as his readers, will be surprised to learn, that at least seven-eighths of this very route is through a remarkably fine agricultural country; through lands held by the very best and most successful farmers, having very large clearances, comfortable dwellings, and out-houses, and good orchards. The counties from Prescott to Cobourg, through which Mr. Caird's route lay, contain 240,000 inhabitants. For twenty years there have been fine herds of Ayrshire and Durham cattle, little inferior to the best cattle in England, and even 40 miles back of the frontier, may be seen farms of from 200 to 400 acres, well cultivated, heavy crops, excellent horses, cattle and sheep. The Railway track was made through the rear part of their farms, purposely reserved "in primeval forest," for firewood; three-fourths probably more of their large farms being under cultivation. The Railway Company purchased the land *in rear* because the farmers did not wish their farms to be intersected by railroads, and they sold the land in the rear cheaper than they would have sold any other part of their farms. The quotation above given, shows the great danger of judging a country merely by a railroad ride; and the danger of *publishing* the impressions thus erroneously acquired, especially by so well known a man as Mr. Caird, is greater still.

This may be further illustrated by extracts from pages 26, 27, 28, and 29; and it is certainly much to be regretted that Mr. Caird remained so short a time in Canada, and took such a very cursory glance of the colony. Many of his remarks are truthful and valuable, but no individual, travelling as Mr. Caird did, *could* form a correct opinion of the agricultural status and prospects of Canada. At page 26, &c., he says, "the country from Hamilton to Paris is undulating, and seemed an easier and more fertile soil, very little of it is wholly cleared; certainly more than half is still an unbroken forest, but the trees are immensely tall and show the rapid growth which only a fertile soil could produce. Though this district is quite within the limit of the profitable culture of Indian Corn, a small proportion only of the land seems to be occupied by that crop. Its great value is everywhere admitted, but on this description of soil its cultivation demands too much labor. The last grain crop can hardly have been great; for in very few instances indeed, are ricks to be seen outside the barns, and they are not capacious enough to contain large crops," &c.

Ha! Mr. Caird journeyed through this country in any other way than by railway, he would have formed a much more correct opinion of the extent under cultivation; this he has very much underrated. Fully three-fourths of this whole district of country is cleared and enclosed, and a large portion of it highly cultivated. If there was little Indian Corn in 1858, it was because other crops promised to pay better, and the spring of 1858 was peculiarly wet and cold; but there is a very large extent of it this year, and although a little late it will prove an abundant crop. The absence of ricks outside the barn, as alluded to by Mr. Caird, is owing to the great abundance of timber, and the great facility with which Canadians construct large barns, quite sufficient to hold even very luxuriant crops. Every good Canadian farmer provides substantial covering for his whole crops, instead of having recourse to ricks with their temporary covering of straw. The material, except nails, they have within themselves, and most of them can help to build them. The work of building a barn 60 feet by 30, and 18 feet post, can be done for £40 stg.; and most good farmers have two if not three of these large barns, besides long sheds in which to store hay &c.; so that the absence of ricks is no criterion of deficiency, but on the contrary, their presence is rather a sign that the farmer is a new settler and as yet unable to put up the permanent covering for his produce, which old and successful farmers universally provide. As to Mr. Caird's assertion that on this "easier and more fertile soil" the cultivation of Indian corn demands too much labor, it may be safely urged that labor is cheaper in Canada than in Illinois, and that the corn crop is nearly as productive in the district he alludes to as it is in Illinois, and being of much superior quality sells at a much higher price. The fact is, that wheat in this district has been hitherto so fine and selling at such high prices that the growth of Indian Corn has been neglected too much for the welfare of the farmer. This very part of Canada which Mr. Caird describes in the above quotation is noted for producing the very finest samples of wheat, weighing 62 lbs., and even 63 lbs., to the Winchester bushel, and has for years carried off the Canada Company's prize of