



Original in MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED.

Be Pure.

O WHY not be pure to-day,
While the light of God's smile doth shine,
And nature, on our way,
Sheds the essence of the Divine!
While youth and childhood are sweet,
And the future looks dim and cold—
O why not, with willing feet,
Seek the joy that will never grow old

If we haste not to sow good seed,
While the showers of springtime fall,
Our plot will be full of weeds,
And the harvest be rank as gall.
Would you tarry till seed-time is past—
I'll let the glad summer go by,
And reap a sad harvest at last,
And miss the bright home of the sky?

Then why not be pure just now?
Ere the shadows of evening descend,
And the sun's gracious power no more,
Its fresh opportunity lend.
O hasten, the ground to prepare!
At once, every moment employ,
Sow seed—but sow not a tare—
And reap a pure harvest of joy.

—Nella Bruce.



THE Nova Scotia Legislature has passed an Act for the protection of cranberries. It appears that the fruit grows in a wild state in bogs, and before it is ripe poachers gather it in and keep it till it is fit for market. The value of berries thus obtained is much less than if they were allowed to ripen. Now poachers found picking the unripe fruit may be fined or imprisoned.

ONE of the measures passed at the recent session of the Ontario Legislature, makes it illegal after

July 1st for anyone to sell or give tobacco to persons under eighteen years of age. There was considerable opposition to the measure, and particularly to a clause, afterwards dropped, which proposed to punish children found with tobacco in their possession. Legislation such as this cannot be too highly commended in view of the deplorable results of the use of tobacco upon the constitutions of the young.

It has been the prevailing belief that farm laborers in England never have the chance of bettering themselves by being able to start farming on their own account. But that such is not the case has been proven beyond peradventure. During the discussion in the Imperial House of Commons on the second reading of the Small Agricultural Holdings Bill, one of the members said that he had written to various landlords asking them to furnish him with statements showing the number of farmers in their respective localities who had begun life as agricultural laborers and farm servants. He had

received answers from landowners residing in two adjoining counties, one being Lincolnshire the great wheat-growing centre, from which it appeared that out of a total of 56,912 acres reported upon 7,976 were occupied by men who had originally been farm laborers, which would represent fourteen per cent of the total acreage—say 1 in 7.

THE statistics of emigration from the United Kingdom for March, show that 6,908 English, 1,113 Scotch, and 3,573 Irish emigrants sailed for the United States, and 2,127 English, 260 Scotch, and 67 Irish, for Canada. The emigration to Australia showed an increase of 50 per cent, as compared with last year, while that to the United States and Canada was falling off. This appears extraordinary in view of the dire distress prevailing in Australia, and the thousands of people who are unable to find employment. There must surely be something radically wrong in the conduct of our immigration department and it is about time it received a thorough overhauling. There is every inducement for people to settle in this country, but still they refuse to come. It would be interesting to know the reason why. Possibly the transference of the department from the Minister of Agriculture to the Minister of the Interior, followed by "the vigorous emigration policy" we have heard so much about recently, may be productive of good results.

THERE are some interesting features in the report of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture for last year. There were brought into the Dominion 3,507 horses, 3,473 cattle, 44,067 sheep, 381 swine, and 76 mules. The exports were 11,868 horses, worth \$1,572,564; 117,765 cattle, worth \$8,774,769; and 299,587 sheep, worth \$1,150,865. The export of cattle and sheep to the United Kingdom was less than during 1890. The number of cattle was 108,947, and of sheep 32,157, showing a decrease of 13,235 and 11,623 respectively. The statistics of

the export of butter and cheese show a total of 3,768,191 pounds of butter and 106,202,140 pounds of cheese, worth \$602,175 and \$9,508,800 respectively. The number of immigrants who settled in the Dominion in 1891 was 82,165 as against 75,067 in the year preceding, being an increase of 7,098. The number of children sent to Canada by charitable organizations in Great Britain was 3,418. Considerable space is taken up in the report on the work of the experimental farms, including the distribution of samples of superior grain among the farmers, and the promotion of tree culture in the North-West.

THE devastation caused by a plague of mice in the border counties of Scotland is something terrible. Five years ago the mice were limited to two or three farms in the upper district of Selkirkshire, but now they are in possession of nearly all the best hill pastures in the counties of Selkirk, Roxburgh, and Dumfries, and have done serious damage in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. The *Edinburgh Scotsman* says that the rapidity with which they are distributing themselves over a wider area of country, and in ever-increasing numbers, is surprising. Their favorite food is the young shoots of grass, the delicate white stems rising immediately out of the earth, but in hard weather or times of scarcity they eat the roots of grasses and old herbage as well. They use great caution when feeding, always doing so under cover of the rough grass, and as they burrow deep into the ground they are not affected by changes of weather, and have a safe retreat in which to bring up their young. Thousands of acres of the best grass lands have been laid waste by them, and are totally destroyed for sheep pasture. It has been necessary to remove many flocks of sheep to distant counties, or to supply them with special food, and many farmers estimate their losses at \$2,500 or more for the winter. In some districts they are petitioning for an extension of the heather-burning season. The total loss is estimated at over half a million dollars.

THE prodigious number of plants upon the earth is almost incredible. By means of the microscope some have been found where they were least expected. The different varieties of mosses and sponges have been classed among vegetables, and have presented to the observation of the naturalist seeds and flowers before unknown. Freestone is sometimes covered with brown and blackish spots; the mouldy substance which composes them adheres to various other matters, and may be considered as a little garden in vegetation, where the plants, though exceedingly minute, have visible seeds and flowers. When we consider the quantity of moss which covers even the hardest stones, the trunks of trees, and the most barren places; the quantity of vegetables upon the surface of the earth; the different species of flowers; the trees and bushes; besides the aquatic plants, some of which exceed a hair in fineness, we may be able to form some idea of the multitude of plants in the vegetable kingdom. All these species grow up and are preserved without detriment to one another, each having a place assigned it which is most suited to its properties. Such is the wisdom displayed in their distribution over the surface of the earth, that there is no part of it wholly destitute, and no part enjoys them in too great abundance. Some plants require the open field, where, unsheltered by trees, they may receive the sun's rays; others can only exist in water; some grow in the sand; others in marshes and fens, which are frequently covered with water; and some bud on the surface of the earth, whilst others unfold themselves in its bosom. The different strata which compose the soil of the earth, as sand, clay, chalk, etc., have each their different vegetables, hence it is that in the vast garden of nature nothing is absolutely sterile. From the finest sand to the flinty rock, from the torrid to the frozen zone, each soil, and climate supports plants peculiar to itself. And it should not be forgotten that, among this immense variety of plants, those which are most proper for food or medicine, either to man or beast, grow in greater abundance than those which are of less utility.