

therefore I hope my being in the opposition, will not bar my article from the press.

Yours truly,
B. J. P.

New Durham, Ont., May, 1873.

THE EDITOR REPLIES:

Having asked those who believed in the Agricultural College Bill to come forward and show the grounds for their faith, we are very glad that such an able and prominent man as "B. J. P." has taken up the cudgels. We give his letter in full because we wish to do everything in the fairest possible manner, but we beg of those who send us correspondence to condense their remarks, as our space is limited.

We will take up his arguments *seriatim* and answer as briefly as possible. He says we have advanced no arguments against the College institution. Now, it is his duty to prove its advantages first, before we need to attack. The College gets a large sum of money from the Government of Ontario, or rather from our pockets. We, therefore, have a right to know what benefits we are to derive from the expenditure.

It is a scheme which has been forced upon our farmers by the politicians and place-hunters. We were prospering. No farmers ever desired that the Government should attempt such a project. It was the wise men in council who determined that we farmers were ignorant and needed to be taught, and they were the men to have us taught, and spend our money in so doing. Now, understand that our opposition is not to the college itself, but to turning it into a government political machine. Such an institution to be carried on by private individuals has long been in agitation, and attempts have been made, and are still being made by private enterprise, to establish a similar institution. (See notice given in the *Canada Farmer* over seven years ago). Such an institution under the control of private individuals would be of more benefit to the country. If one was properly established others would soon follow, but private capital can not compete against the public exchequer and the Government influences and powers.

This institution was undertaken by the Government on purpose to check private enterprise and build up party friends. This we assert, knowing it to be a positive fact. When we know this, can we be wrong in stating that it has, must and will throw a great check on private enterprise. In this ground we say the benefits will never be equal to the costs.

We have never asserted that such an institution would not do good to farmers. In the midst of so much chaff there ought to be a little wheat. The question with us, will the benefits be equal to the cost? or is there no way in which we could spend the money to better advantage for the farmer?

The only way to judge of the benefits of such institutions is to examine into the work and effects of similar ones already established. The governments of the several States over the border have dealt very liberally in agricultural colleges. It was at one time a perfect mania with them, and money and land were lavished upon them with an unsparing hand. How are these colleges now? Just read the agricultural press of the United States.—Failure! failure! failure! No man so mean as to praise these institutions. A universal cry of "Do away with them!—waste no more of the people's money on such political, agricultural, educational, experimental, collegiate humbugs!"

Our correspondent wants to know what the poor boy will do who has been left a worn out farm by his father? and his evident answer must be—go to college. Does our friend find that the college bred men who live in his immediate neighborhood are those who succeed in making good farms out of bad ones? Let this be our answer:—If the boy reads the agricultural press, and does not learn from his

own actual practice how to care for his farm, his chances of becoming a model agriculturist by means of the college are slim indeed.

Our friend cites two instances which he says prove the necessity of agricultural colleges. Does he expect the college will teach enough of Botany to enable its students to know and name every seed on sight; or enough of Chemistry to analyze all his farm soil? If so, then how much time does he mean the boy shall spend at the college, and if so, how much will it cost the country to educate the majority of our farmers to the same standard?

Then as to agricultural clubs being already self-sustaining, and therefore requiring no help, he might have said the same thing regarding agricultural colleges a few years ago, when every farmer's agricultural college was his farm, and his testing department was his granary. Our correspondent says that not over one in ten of our farmers will join the agricultural associations, and therefore the benefit will be small. How many will attend the college? Will one in one thousand? Then, according to his own arguments the benefit will be still less. We maintain that farmers' clubs, properly organized, are immensely superior to the college for the following reasons:—

1st.—They are spread over the country, and the members are so many that nothing of importance in agriculture can occur without being subjected to discussion, whereas the college can only take cognizance of what goes on in a few hundred acres.

2nd.—If an erroneous idea is advanced by the press, there are plenty of practical farmers in the clubs to expose its fallacy. With the college, if the professor is wrong, all must go wrong with him.

3rd.—The test farms of the associations cover the whole of Canada, and have the variations of temperature and soil, and the testers are dependent for their bread upon the tests being successful. The testers in the college will live all right any way, for we must all feed them.

What is required to make the agricultural associations useful is that their discussions should be made public and be revised by one another.

Our correspondent cites as college bred men such names as Mechi, Mapes, Geddes, Harris, Lewis and other well-known agriculturists of England and the States as proofs of the value of agricultural college education. This argument would be very good only for the fact that none of them ever attended an agricultural college!—They attended first such colleges as we have already established in Canada in abundance.

"B. J. P." winds up with a miscellaneous attack on agricultural papers because they advertise swindlers and manufacturers, and says that they don't tell the defects of machines or expose the trickery of schemers. If he will examine our back numbers he will find out that on the contrary, we have devoted much of our space to the exposing of swindlers and strictures on machinery, and we now give publicity to his ideas which are diametrically opposed to our own.

DEAR SIR, There is a hint in the Advocate for April which is worth to me more than a year's subscription to it, and I thank you and Mr. McCollum for making it public. I mean the plan of saving turnip tops. I have tried for years to save them but could only do it in small quantities, spread on the mows or on poles, but by Mr. McCollum's plan any quantity can be kept good, and I know that the cattle, if they could speak, would say "Thank you" to any one who will give them such feed.

I am surprised at the quantity of turnip seed both you and your correspondents consider necessary for an acre—but then I write as a backwoods farmer only. It is a common opinion amongst us that four ounces is enough, if you can make it cover the land. I can manage half a pound very well, and the plan I take is this: I wet the seed, then pour off all the water that will pour, then rub the seed in dry soil till it will nearly all separate,

then put as many dry ashes—mixing thoroughly, so that no two seeds will stick together—as will with the thumb and two fingers cover an acre. It appears that the seed, wet and mixed with the soil, insures the growth of nearly every one, and the ashes, besides helping the thin sowing, is, I think, a protection against insects. At all events it does well on new, stumpy land where drills are out of question. Allow me to give a hint which may be of service:—I laid out 1½ acres for turnips last year; it was July before I could sow; I had but half a pound of seed, except a little parcel, I did not know what it was; I sowed it on the part of the land the other would not cover; it came up Early York Cabbage and grew very well. Query—Wouldn't it pay to sow cabbage broadcast early, as I sow turnip seed? I mean to try it this year. What was the matter with the ox?

Will you be kind enough to give me information on the following:—I have just lost an ox. He ate his hay well on Saturday morning, but when I hitched him up to work a few hours later he refused his hay. I took him out with his mate and drew a good load of fodder all right. He ate well at night, and the next day I gave him a bran mash, which he evidently liked, but was a long time eating, apparently could not swallow, and picked at his hay, taking very little bits, though hungry enough. On Monday morning he was frothing at the mouth, and his manger was a slop with froth and there was a thick discharge from the nostrils. Two neighbors came to look at him but could not say what was wrong. On Tuesday he continued the same but was clearly getting weak. On that day I had to leave home and got a neighbor well acquainted with cattle to look at him. He came on Wednesday and examined him thoroughly, but could not name the disease, unless it was paralysis of the tongue, as when he pulled it out to examine the mouth and throat it hung out and only gradually slipped back into the mouth. On Thursday he died, apparently from hunger and suffocation. He had not for two days been able to put out his tongue to get food, and when we drenched him, as soon as his head was let down, it ran out of his mouth. We gave him bran as freely as he would take it, boiled oats, raw potatoes, bread, &c. I got a neighbor to examine his throat after death, but we could not learn anything satisfactory. All that appeared irregular to me was, the passage from the windpipe to the nostrils was full of chewed food. There was also a lot of it in the gullet, but not enough, as I thought, to cause choking—but then I know nothing of anatomy. Until he died his nose was as moist and healthy looking as could be, and so were his mouth and tongue; his eyes were rather sunken and his jaws quite stiff. If you can explain the cause of death, and suggest a remedy, it may be of service in future cases.

Yours truly,
P. HARDING.

Cardiff, April 21, 1873.

REPLY.

The cause of death was choking from obstruction of the gullet by lodgment of food in the passage. It is not an infrequent occurrence for coarse food to become so impacted. Sometimes a twig of a thorn bush, a stalk of a thistle, or over-ripe fibrous hay, hurriedly swallowed, remains in the throat and produces all the symptoms so plainly described by our correspondent. The treatment of course suggests itself. "Remove the cause and the effects cease." This will be done by opening the mouth with a balling iron and passing the hand into the throat and removing the foreign body. Then feed for a few days on thin, sloppy food. Sometimes an intelligent boy, owing to the smallness of his hand, will be more successful in these cases than a man.

D. W. E.

GRASS PEA, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, ETC.

MR. EDITOR, SIR, I see in your last issue an account of the German or Grass Pea, and soliciting any information your subscribers could give on that pea. I suppose I know all about them. The name grass is very appropriate, but you can leave off the German. I have raised hundred of bushels of them in the States, for the very reason that they are bug proof. They are the shape of a wedge, or an Indian tomahawk. They are a rich pea, fine vine, make good feed, and will blow and increase until harvested. Therefore, if you have bought and sold them, you are not far astray, but if you have, not be cautious, unless it is in localities where bugs are troublesome. I showed some a few years ago at our County Show, and if I had any

left I would send you a sample. I would like you to send me a few, if they are, as I think I would know them as well as I would my old hat. As for the oats you speak of, I wish you had given a more minute description of them. There was a new oat introduced here a few years ago at a high figure. I can exchange any oats I have ever handled. I think but little of the *Country Gentleman's* idea of raising potatoes. Your idea of the Agricultural College is sound. If you can stamp it out of existence, do so. I would give you my experience in planting the potato, I having raised thirty different kinds and in different ways, but I think I have trespassed enough this time.

Yours, with respect,
B. F. MORRISON.

Newmarket, May 1, 1873.

PLANTING TREE.

DEAR SIR,—As soon as I read your offer of Flower Seeds to any girl that would plant trees, I set right to work and planted since the 16th of April, 54 trees, and am going to plant 46 more if I can, as I would like to have a hundred. One very nice spruce tree I call Mr. Weld's tree, and three beautiful balsams in a row I call Weld's favorites. I planted a row around the garden fence, two rows down the lane, and four by the gate at the road; I intend to plant a row around the barn yard yet, and at other places, but I may not get them this year. Now, I send for some seeds, as I love to work in the garden, it gives me such good health.

I remain, yours truly,
MARY A. MORRIS.

Well done Mary, you richly deserve the prize; I know the seeds will please you. I expect you will have the handsomest grounds in the neighborhood. When the ladies begin young, and are attached to the beauties of nature, how much happier, healthier, and more useful lives are they apt to lead, than when their brains are filled with operas and dress and frivolities of the city. Ladies, plant your trees, and attend your flowers in the pure air of the country.

HOW TO MAKE A CHEAP CELLAR BOTTOM.

In sections of the country where there is an abundance of cobble stone, collect a few loads of them about four or five inches in diameter, grade the bottom of the cellar, lay the cobbles in rows, and ram them down one-third their thickness into the ground, so that they will not rock or be sunk below the line of the rows by any superincumbent pressure, such as the weight of a hoghead of molasses or a tierce of vinegar. The bottom of the cellar should be graded so that the centre will be at least two inches lower than the outside. When this is the case, should water enter from the outside, it will flow directly towards the middle. A straightened board should be placed frequently on each row of stones as they are being rammed, so that the upper sides may be in a line with each other. After the stones are laid and well rammed down, place a few boards on the pavement to walk on; then make a grouting of clear sand and water lime, or Rosendale cement, and pour it on the stones until all the interstices are filled. As soon as the grouting has set, spread a layer of good cement mortar, one inch thick, over the top of the pavement, and trowel the surface off smoothly. In order to spread the mortar true and even on the surface, lay an inch board one foot from the wall on the surface of the pavement, stand on the board and fill the space with mortar even to the top of the board; after which move the board one foot, fill the space with mortar and trowel it off smoothly. Such a floor will cost less than a board floor and will endure as long as the superstructure is kept in repair. A floor made in the foregoing manner on the ground in the basement of a barn, a piggery, or a stable, would be rat-proof, and would be found cheaper and more serviceable than a plank floor. The work should be done in the former part of the growing season, so that the cement may have sufficient time to become dry and hard before cold weather.

HOW EASILY BUTTER IS SPOILED.

A farmer's wife writing to the *Ohio Farmer*, says:—"Of all the products of the farm, butter is most liable to be tainted by noxious odors floating in the atmosphere. Our people laid some veal in the cellar, from which a little blood flowed out, and was neglected until it commenced to smell. The result was that a jar of butter which I was then packing smelled and tasted like spoiled beef."