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Halifax, 21st January, 1870.

THE SEASON has been hitherto a very remarkable one. Instead of hard frost and severe snow storms, we have had mild changeable weather, with an occasional frost sufficient only to skim the surface of the lakes for the skaters, for a few days at a time. Between Christmas and New Year times the grass was green in the fields, farmers were ploughing in some parts of the Province, and animals were pasturing. Up to the 31st Dec., sheep had not tasted a bit of hay in Halifax county. During the second week of January, cold weather threatened to set in; on the morning of 15th the thermometer went down several degrees below zero even in the most sheltered parts of the city, it reached—13° at Bedford and—20° at Truro, and—15° at Wallace; but the temperature gradually rose during the day, and was above freezing at sunset. Such weather is very unfavorable for lumbering operations in the woods; it still continues mild and clear without a particle of snow.

The subject of HEMP CULTURE continues to receive attention, and we furnish this month the first instalment of a valuable paper on the Kentucky method of

management. The Hon. Mr. McHefhey informs us that he recollects of Hemp being successfully grown fifty years ago on one of the McHefhey farms at Windsor. It grew very luxuriantly, but required rich soil and liberal treatment; the only drawback in that district was the difficulty of obtaining soft water for rotting, which necessitated dew-rotting, and this does not give so fine a sample. Among the communications received on this subject is one from William Grove, Esq., Beaver Bank, who points out the advantage of this crop to farming districts, where at present many more hands are required for the summer work than for winter, and where the preparation of hemp for market would give employment to many hands now employed half their time. The two great difficulties, Mr. Grove points out, are want of proper machinery, and want of knowledge and experience. If Mills were established in different parts of the Province, where farmers could sell the rotted hemp and get their money, no doubt they would, after a time, get plenty of business.

Mr. Grove calls attention to the importance of introducing NUT-BEARING TREES into our woods, such as filberts,

chestnuts, oaks, &c., many species of which are adapted to our climate, and would afford food for animals as well as to man, besides increasing the beauty of the woods. In the United States, millions of the American sweet chestnut are being planted out every year with this view.

It is a great misfortune that in the city of Halifax so few EVERGREEN TREES are planted. At this season of the year the finest gardens in the city look wretched for want of a few cheerful evergreens, and most of the country roads on the Peninsula are as bleak as an Alaska desert, where the ground is frozen 30 feet below the surface at midsummer. If we could only restore the beautiful evergreens with which the Peninsula was covered a hundred years ago, how marvellous would be the change! There is no more delightful walk in winter than the road leading round Point Pleasant by way of the Penitentiary, where the evergreen trees have been spared. Let any one go out to the back of the citadel, and feel how refreshing it is to look upon the close rows of robust spruces at the southern end of the common, adjoining the Horticultural Gardens and the Cemetery, and then turn his eye upon the desolate country around, and he will become