

three-legged stool in Montreal who could not endorse our statement.

It is not our duty, nor is it our intention, to throw cold water on the hopes of the eager young men who, with honest ambition, seek to open their way to fortune in the cities of our Dominion. Could we suggest no better employment for our brave young men, we should sorrowfully be silent and hope for the best; but it is our plain duty to warn those who still rush towards the city, that every avenue to employment is overcrowded—that there is no room for those who seek situations—that competition reduces wages to starving point; and that, to avoid all this, nine out of every ten who dream of a mercantile life ought to stay at home, where the soil they stand upon offers employment for all, and a grateful return to every man who will consent in honesty to labour it. We have said enough to warn the sons of our farmers from rashly committing themselves to the uncertainties of city life. We know that in the luxuries, the excitements and amusements of a large town, which are apparently within the reach of all, there is a power of attraction which no wise saws or kindly warning will counteract. The enthusiasm and self-reliance of youth see none but WHITTINGTONS; but our ideas may find a response in the hearts of many fathers, and to them we would suggest that, in place of encouraging the erratic ideas of their children, they should endeavour to attach them to their homes by every means possible. Let the successful farmer, above all things, try to make his home not only a home of comfort, but a home of beauty and taste, of which his children may be proud. In fact, we look upon this as of incalculable importance to the youth of our country. So far, it has been with us the age of rough cultivation, of rude log houses—an age in which all our exertions were turned to getting rid of the old forest, which revenged its death by a legacy of ugly stumps. Brought up amid these coarse though honourable toils, the refinement of life were forgotten, and, with city life alone, could the young men associate any thing which breathed of gentle pursuits. And though the evidences of such refinement might only show themselves in neat boots and gloved hands, yet these mean much, and give a caste to the wearers in the eyes of country lads which they feel, though they care little to confess, that such are some of the inducements to leave their fathers' roofs. To use a very distasteful, or rather low expression, the life of a young man in town, at his desk, is looked upon by our farmers as more "genteel" than holding the plough or driving the grain to mill. But the Canadian landholder has emerged, or is emerging, from this chrysalis state. The huge black pile of logs have long disappeared, and, with them, the roughness of our farming. Fair fields, well fenced and clean, large barns, and good houses, denote comfort and abundance; let the men who have made these glad properties add beauty to utility, elegance to abundance, and the senseless idea of city superiority will vanish. Our young men, like the young men of England, will be proud of their country homes, and their country pursuits will be quite as elevating as any city occupation, either in the office or at the counter.

But do our young men reflect upon the chances of a merchant's life, with all its incidents, as compared with that of the farmer? We know that merchants must make money, if at all, by encountering constant risks. He insures his property indeed against wreck and fire, but the trust he puts in ships is as nothing to the trust which he must put in his customers. To them he delivers up, with no real security, every farthing of his means, on their prudence and honesty alone relying for his returns. Against their imprudence and misfortune there is no assurance. Thus his life is one of anxiety at all times, and in seasons of commercial derangement he breathes nothing but killing care. Such a life is not for every man, and therefore few who try it succeed, least of all will they find it an easy road to travel who enter upon it merely in the idea that its labours are easy, and that its labourers are in a more gentlemanly employment than those who in a care free industry cultivate their own broad acres; for most surely the risks which bad harvests may sometimes bring are nothing in comparison with those which try the merchant's courage at all times.

We do not wish to draw comparisons between the advantages and disadvantages of the various industries by which men may seek to achieve fortune. Our only aim is to warn, ere it be too late, that for the present, at least, the market is overstocked, and that those who now crowd into cities to seek situations, will find as their first lesson, what these ominous words mean. On the other hand, land is abundant, the returns from land, by God's blessing sure, and the occupation most manly—most honourable.

Let not those whose education is of that superior degree which ought to elevate them above the common herd imagine that a country life affords no scope for their acquisitions. No greater mistake could be made. Nowhere in the world is education more sure of its proper reward than in this our new country. The educated and thinking man will find every advantage in the proper management

of crops and stock, while his knowledge and intellectual attainments will surely place him in the front rank of his fellow-men—opening the way to him to every office of trust and honour which his country, or his country, can lay before his ambition.

As we said before, far be it from us to discourage the praiseworthy ambition of any of our ingenuous youth. We warn only of a doubtful career, while we point out a sure one, one which in proud independence in all ages has enabled the husbandman to boast that he and the like of him are the bone and sinew of the land.—*Montreal Gazette*.

5. WHERE ENGLAND BUYS HER WHEAT.

The following interesting statement in the trade returns for 1867-68, which indicates how very small a proportion of the grain that is bought for the British market comes from these Provinces or the States. Of wheat we read as follows:—

	1867.	1868.
From Russia, cwts.....	14,025,236	10,053,617
From Denmark.....	418,012	654,419
From Prussia.....	5,572,263	4,584,742
From Schleswig, &c.....	127,222	45,412
From Mecklenburg.....	651,884	647,205
From Hanse Towns.....	700,935	756,654
From France.....	597,405	56,414
From Illyria, &c.....	542,635	1,004,701
From Turkey.....	2,446,638	3,049,088
From Egypt.....	1,451,774	3,219,536
From United States.....	4,188,013	5,908,149
From Chili.....	1,946,227	1,309,575
From British North America.....	683,127	557,443
From other countries.....	1,294,198	792,813
Total.....cwts.	34,645,569	32,639,768

Imports of other grains are set down thus:—

	1867.	1868.
Barley.....cwts.	5,683,721	7,476,224
Oats.....	9,407,136	8,112,563
Peas.....	1,586,129	1,116,246
Beans.....	1,982,615	2,647,390
Indian corn.....	8,540,429	11,472,226

In flour this continent does better in proportion, as shown by the following figures:—

	1867.	1868.
From Hanse Towns.....cwts.	444,710	615,756
From France.....	1,234,742	632,359
From United States.....	722,976	676,192
From British North America.....	121,503	192,850
From other countries.....	1,069,038	975,865
Total.....	3,592,969	3,093,022

V. Biographical Sketches.

1. EDMUND RITCHIE, ESQ.

Mr. Ritchie was born at Haverfordwest, England, in 1807, and came to Canada in 1829, first settled in Montreal, and soon after connecting himself in business there with the well-known firm of Messrs. Bridge & Penn, who at that time secured the greater part of the Upper Canada trade through Mr. Ritchie's exertions. In 1829 Mr. Ritchie came to Hamilton, and went into business with his brother, who now resides in Simcoe, and in 1830 was appointed Postmaster of this city, the Post Office Department of Canada then being under Imperial control, and managed by Postmaster-General Stayner. In addition to his duties as Postmaster, Mr. Ritchie held the temporary appointment of Commissioner under the Rebellion Losses Act, and was also a Director of the Gore Bank for many years.

Mr. Ritchie, until within the past few years, was a man of wonderful business activity, and only yielded under failing health. Long residents of the city will remember how diligently, and with what zeal, he managed the Post Office, first in the small frame building now used as a paint shop, afterwards in the building at the corner of James and Rebecca streets, and lastly in the spacious edifice where it is now located. A residence of forty years made him familiar to most of the residents in Hamilton, and no man stood higher in public esteem. He had seen the place rise from a