A Trip for Health, Recreation and Business.

After the close application to office for such a length of time, we feel the actual necessity of a change, and take a trip through the country.

We call at Dr. Francis' Nursery, in Delaware, just in strawberry time, to see

THE COL. CHEENY STRAWBERRY.

We find the plant vigorous and well set, with fruit of a large size and firm. It is a little later in ripening than the Wilson, but much larger and of a bright, clear color.—It sold in London market at from five to ten cents per quart more than the Wilson, and if we can afford it, we will plant a bed of them next fall or spring.

In passing through his grounds we noticed what we consider the

BEST MARKS FOR NURSERY STOCK.

The Dr. went to a brick yard near his place and with a wooden pencil marked the ends of a lot of bricks with initials and names of different kinds of nursery stock; these bricks were placed in a hot part of the kiln and burnt hard. He uses these in place of wooden stakes, which are in general use, and they are far superior, as they do not rot. The names are plain and always legible on each brick. They are no more in the way than stakes, in fact, not so much so, as they project only three inches above the surface, merely showing the ends with the names on. This plan might with advantage be adopted by many farmers and gardeners who test various kinds of seed.

We also saw in the Dr.'s place the

BEST WILLOW HEDGE

we have ever seen. It is now six years old and is used as a fence. No cattle, horses or sheep can go through it or over it. The plants were put in two feet apart; they have been cut off near the roots, and one strong sprout has been allowed to run up. When about 1½ inches thick the main stem is cut off from every alternate plant about four feet from the ground; the other limbs are woven or plashed in these upright stakes. Thus the hedge has the living timber running horizontally as well as perpendicular, and makes a strong, substantial, living fence, suitable for any farm. Many farmers have tried it, but the failures in every case have been caused by the lack of knowledge and attention. To make them efficient they must be properly attended to when young, or they will never make a good fence. This hedge was growing on high, dry land, in fact, on quite a knoll.

When we see the willow making a really good, substantial fence in such a place, we know, with proper management, that it will make a fence anywhere. There is also another advantage that must make this hedge very valuable. While the lower part acts as a fence, the upper part is growing rapidly, and where wood is scarce, as it is in many places at the present time, this surplus wood will make fuel, and sometimes it is found useful for other purposes. It will also be found most advantageous as a shade for stock and a protection to our fruit, grain and grass crops. Trees also tend to draw rain to fall in their vicinity, or retain moisture. We believe that the value of farms in some bleak, open sections of the country would be greatly enhanced by merely planting the willow hedge around and through them; the crops and stock would both be benefitted by it, and wood for fuel would be obtained also.

We have ordered a photograph to be taken of this hedge, and intend having it engraved to show you how it is made. Valuable as we think this as a hedge, we do not consider it will equal the Buckthorn for fencing alone. The time has now arrived when we must pay attention to hedges and timber for fuel and building, as in many parts our farms are denuded of timber of any kind.

Some complain of hedges and trees impoverishing the land and destroying the crops near them. This may be prevented by digging an open ditch alongside, causing the roots to descend deeper for their nourishment.

Notes and Queries.

FALL WHEAT.—I will want some of your best kind of fall wheat in December, as we are needing a change of seed here. The kinds sown in this section are Soule, Treadwell, Diehl, and Hutchinson. If you know any kinds better than these, I would like to get some.—W. R., North Simcoe.

[So far as we have yet seen, the Scott wheat certainly takes the lead. We will have more to say on this subject next month.]

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WARTS ON HORSES.—If you know what will remove warts from horses, please publish it in your next number.—W. R.

[We know nothing better for this purpose than to tie a fine, strong silk thread around the root of the wart.]

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POTATO BUGS.—Mr. S. Roberts, of Ingersoll, informs us that he has tried various kinds of mixtures for the extermination of the potato bug. He has tried Paris Green with flour, ashes and plaster of Paris, but the best plan that he has yet adopted is to mix Paris Green with water, one tablespoonful to two gallons of water; puts it in a pail and takes a wisk or whisk—such as is used for brushing clothes—and sprinkles the mixture on the vines. He keeps the mixture well stirred at the time of applying it.

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WATER FOR CALVES.—One important point in rearing calves is often neglected. When calves are allowed to run in the pasture and are fed liberally with milk or whey, we are apt to think that they need no water. It is found that calves thrive better by having a liberal supply of water, in fact it is actualiy necessary, no matter how much milk or whey they may have. Their coats look sleeker and they have a more thrifty appearance than is imparted to them when running in a pasture field without a supply of water.

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SWEET CORN FOR FORAGE.—Corn has been used for forage in the United States for some time, but not always with satisfaction, many dairymen complaining that there was very little nutriment in it, notwithstanding the bulk. We notice that some prominent men in that line advise the Evergreen sweet corn for forage, sown thinly—1½ bushels broadcast, or 1 bushel drilled. When fed green it should be cut 24 hours before feeding, so that it will get wilted. They claim that this feed increases the quantity of the milk and the flavor of the butter.

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Can you tell me what has killed my evergreens? I had some beauties growing on both sides of my garden walk. They grew splendidly for a few years, but after that gradually faded away and are now dead. J. H.

[Upon inquiry we find that "J. H." has been in the habit of salting his garden walks to destroy the weeds on them, in which he was successful, but gradually the salt has worked its way down to the roots of the trees, and that is what killed the trees. We have seen trees die in this way before. The side nearest the walk first became brown, and next year the whole tree was dead. Unless your trees are a good distance from your walks, don't use salt to keep the walks clean.—ED.]

The farmer who has barns ample enough to house all his stock, has the means at hand to give the same stock an unfailing supply of the best water the year round. The rain that falls on the roof, if caught in cisterns, will water all the stock the roof can comfortably shelter.

Woodbridge Agricultural Works.

Woodbridge is a small village situated 16 miles from Toronto. The Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway has a station at this place. It would not be known as a village were it not for Mr. Abel's Agricultural Works. Mr. Abel employs between 100 and 200 hands, and his establishment we think is more completely fitted with the different kinds of improved machinery than any other we have seen in the western part of Canada.

The principal business doing at his works when we were there was the manufacture of threshing machines. Mr. Abel makes a speciality of threshing machines, and the surprising number he makes is not generally known; he sends them to all parts of the Dominion. He has again made additional improvements; at the last Exhibition he carried off first prize and diploma despite the strong competition. He also makes the portable steam engines to drive them; only a few of the steam engines are as yet employed, but they must come into use.

He was about completing one to send to Thamesville, and several more were under way.

Mr. Abel manufactures many other implements. He sold 400 reapers and mowers this year, and was obliged to let many orders go to other firms, because he could not fill them, as he was obliged to turn his force to the threshers, to have them ready in time.

We noticed a new water wheel lying in his shop. It is called the Sampson Wheel. This wheel has an adjustable shut which regulates the amount of water to be used in the best manner we have yet seen; he claims this wheel to require 15 per cent. less water than the Leffell Wheel. It is our impression, from what we have seen and heard of this wheel, that it is destined to take the place of the wheels now in use.

We noticed in his yard a double furrow plough, made something similar to the English ploughs, but much lighter, easier handled, has better improvements, and one which we believe will be preferred to the heavy English double furrow ploughs. Mr. Abel will commence manufacturing these ploughs as soon as the iron market is settled; the great prices of iron have deterred him from manufacturing them as yet, although some persons that have already procured the English double furrow ploughs wished to take his in preference to them.

Prizes for Essays.

We propose again giving a few presents to writers on special subjects. We will give one of Vick's beautiful chromos for the best articie on the

DESTRUCTION OF CANADA THISTLES.

Also, one for Minnie May's Department, for the best article on

MAKING HOME-MADE HARD SOAP.

One chromo for the best article on the following question:—

HOW TO RAISE WHEAT WITH THE LEAST LIABILITY TO BE ATTACKED BY THE HESSIAN FLY,

where the Hessian Fly exists.

SUCCESSION OF VEGETABLE CROPS.—Even after you receive this paper it will not be too late to sow late turnips. Food for cattle is expected to be scarce in the coming winter, and every effort should be made to provide for it as much as possible. Whenever a crop is taken off, let the plough be immediately at work preparing for a succeeding crop. It is too late for Swedish turnips, but other varieties, such as the Stone, may yet give a fair yield, but sow them as early in the month as possible. The soil for them should be rich and mellow. Some sow their late turnips broadcast, but we cannot recommend such a method. To be a remunerative crop they must be thinned to a regular distance and properly cultivated.

To Prevent Cows from Sucking.

This is not a very common habit, still we have seen many cows that have learned it. Mr. Riley, the other day, informed us that he took a good piece of hard wood, about two feet long, 1¼ inches thick, made it round, tapered the ends and drove a sharp spike in each end. He cut a small notch in the middle of the stick, punched a hole through the cow's nose, and forced the stick half way through the nose. The small notch, being made a little smaller than the other parts of the stick, prevents it from moving either way, the muscles of the nose retaining a hold on that part.—Thus the cow can feed, but if she turns her head to suck herself, the stick prevents it. Also, in case of sucking another animal, the least touch of the stick prevents it likewise.

Fertilizers.

As our country is becoming older and more densely settled, we feel the need of manures with which to increase our productions, in order to make the same land which formerly grew enough to support one family, produce enough for two. For this reason our barnyard manure has had more of our attention, and we have been careful in preparing and saving it. But there are some portions of our soil which are so naturally deficient in strength, or which have been run down by an improper system of farming, that they require some aid outside of the return to their surface in the shape of manure, what grows there in the shape of crops.

To find out some manure which will combine cheapness with value, and along with that, ease of transport, has been the study of farmers and chemists for centuries.

The guano from Peru and adjacent islands, and the bones from Buenos Ayres, the weeds and fish from the sea and lime from the rocks have all done their share in the improvement of our soils and still continue articles of commerce and valuable aids to the farm. But as our creeks and our rivers continually sweep down to the sea, they bear along with them the richness of our land, and every drop that reaches the ocean does its share in stealing our resources.

So long as we continue to waste the sewerage of our towns by forcing it into the adjacent rivers, and so long as water has a tendency to carry off our fertility, so long will we be forced to replace our loss by some outside substance.

We are led to make these remarks from having had our attention again directed to the fact that although we farmers of Canada are liable to the same loss as other lands and from the some causes, we are placed in an exceptionally good position by the fact that within the bounds of our own land we possess a substance which will help us to replace the natural waste. We refer to our immense deposits of apatite, a rock rich with phosphate of lime.

It is not many years since the idea was suggested that phosphate of lime was not limited to the bones of the contemporary animal kingdom, but might be had from a variety of minerals, According to the *American Farmer*, from which we quote, the story of this discovery runs as follows:—

"When the late Dr. Henslow was Professor of Botany at Cambridge, there was brought to him by a farmer a few fossils; he saw that they were not as fossils usually are—carbonate of lime—but phosphate of lime. He said at once as by an inspiration: 'You have found a treasure; not a gold mine indeed, but a food mine. This is bone earth, which we are at our wits' end to get for our grain. Only get enough of it and you will increase immensely the food supply of England.

"Dr. Moffat, an able writer upon the subject of mineral manures, says: 'In nature the instances of a pure phosphate of lime are very rare, and on such a small scale that they only suffice as cabinet specimens. The highest grades known are the phosphorite of Spain and certain apatites of Canada. These contain, in many instances, as much as 90 per cent. of phosphate of lime.'"

Those who have examined these beds of apatite, which lie in the eastern part of this province, pronounce the supply immense, and all that is required is that they should be cheaply worked and manufactured into superphosphate, to give our Canadian farmers an advantage over the rest of the world. This is one of the works which should be undertaken by the proposed Agricultural Emporium.