

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

VOL. XIII.

LONDON, ONT., JUNE, 1878.

NO. 6.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

The Farmer's Advocate

—AND—
HOME MAGAZINE.
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WILLIAM WELLS.
OFFICE:—ADVOCATE BUILDING, LONDON, ONT.
TO SUBSCRIBERS:

TERMS.—\$1 per annum, postage paid; \$1.25 when in arrears. Single copies 10 cents each.

We cannot change the address of a subscriber unless he gives us his former as well as his present address.

Subscribers should always send their subscriptions by registered letter, and give their name and post office address in full. Subscriptions can commence with any month.

Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

TO ADVERTISERS:

Our rates for single insertion are 20c. per line—\$2.40 per inch, space of nonpareil (a line consists on an average of eight words).

Manufacturers and Stock Breeders' cards inserted in "Special List" at \$1 per line per annum.

Condensed farmers advertisements of agricultural implements, seeds, stock or farms for sale, or farms to let, not to exceed four lines, 50c., prepaid.

Advertising accounts rendered quarterly.

Advertisements, to secure insertion and required space, should be in by 20th of each month.

Letters enclosing remittances, &c., only acknowledged when specially requested. Our correspondence is very heavy and must be abridged as much as possible.

On the Wing.

Immediately on the completion of the May number of the ADVOCATE, we took flight to ARKANSAS.

Many enquire of us about the lands in our Dominion and in different parts of the States, and as Arkansas appears to be drawing much attention at the present time and some extremely flattering accounts of that State have been sent to Canada by Canadians, we wished to pay a personal visit to enable us to form a more correct opinion than we could obtain from hearing or reading accounts, as no one can form as correct an idea by reading as by personal examination.

Col T. B. Mills, of Little Rock, gave us an invitation last year, but we could not previously spare time to accept it.

We left our office in the evening; slept from Detroit to Chicago, and took the morning train for St. Louis, via Alton. On this line a dining car is attached at breakfast, dinner and supper time, and run about thirty miles each time, allowing all who choose to get a good meal for 75 cts., without any detention (note 1).

At St. Louis (note 2) we took the Iron Mountain R. R. for Little Rock, the capital of the State, said to contain 20,000 inhabitants. We staid one day at Poplar Bluff (note 3). From Little Rock (note 4) we took the Fort Smith & Little Rock R. R., and returned (note 5), to Cherokee, in the Indian Territory; then to the Grand Prairie (note 6). The farthest southern point we visited was Hot Springs (note 7). We traveled by rail, boat, horse-cars, wagons, carriages, and by mules and mustangs, nearly 3,000 miles.

Notes numbered in this article will be more fully referred to in future numbers, as they would monopolize too much space. The States of Missouri, Illinois, Michigan, Texas and the Indian Territory will also receive attention.

This we think the finest trip we have ever taken on this continent. The weather was most favorable, neither too hot nor too cold. We only saw one man we thought the worse for liquor; no beggars asked for donations, and we heard neither oath nor blasphemy. We walked and rode up mountains, some 300, some 600 ft. high. We saw no one sick except those going to Hot Springs from other States or those at the Springs, in the process of being cured or hoping to be. Roses perfumed our way even on the mountain side, and on the vast level prairie in Little Rock the masses of roses and honeysuckles were astonishing. The perfume from these, with the fragrance from the flowers of the most beautiful of all ornamental trees—the Magnolia—filled the air with the most delightful odors, such as no chemical preparations can equal. We found nothing to equal it in the gardens of London, England, or Paris, or in any on this continent.

The western portion of the State of Arkansas rises to such an altitude that the nights are always cold, and one requires a slight covering. The southern portion is hotter, and the heat in mid-day would be oppressive to those unaccustomed to it; but white men, when acclimated, work throughout the whole day about as well as the negroes. This State is semi-tropical, and is claimed by its inhabitants to be the healthiest State in the Union. We saw aged white men, over eighty, healthy and vigorous, who hardly knew what sickness was. When new settlers live on the low, rich bottom lands, on the prairie, or on the wood lands that are apt to overflow, they are pretty sure to have fevers and agues in the latter part of the summer, until they become acclimated, if great precaution is not taken; with care, a person might live surrounded with malaria and not be affected, but no one takes that care. Agues and fevers will prevail in all new settlements to a greater or less degree.

The soil and timber in many places are excellent; peaches are to be seen growing at nearly every shanty; grape vines are seen in many places running from the top of one tree to another, and hanging in beautiful festoons down from limbs of trees nearly a hundred feet high.

Cotton and corn were the principal crops we saw growing; many pieces of wheat were seen, but it will not compare with the crops of wheat we raise in Canada. In some parts of the State tobacco is extensively planted. Agriculture appears to be carried on in the most shiftless, careless manner; the wood on the land is seldom cleared off, as with us; the underbrush is merely cut away, the larger trees girdled to deaden them, the corn and cotton is cultivated among the trees, and the ground is only scratched over in the roughest manner; the mule and cultivator do the principal work of tillage. On the prairie large herds of cattle are running; the prairies in this State have a beautiful appearance, being interspersed with belts and spots of timber. Quails are to be seen on the mountains, in the woods and on the prairies; turkeys, prairie hens and deer were not seen by us, this being the

close season, and they avoid the haunts of men when breeding. Rabbits are numerous. We saw a few harmless snakes; rattlesnakes are sometimes found, but they get out of man's way when they can do so. We found no inconvenience from flies or any other insects or vermin; later in the season such things become more troublesome.

We found the inhabitants most hospitable and kind, and felt no more fear or dread from knife, pistol, Indian or negro than in our country. The negroes on the bottom lands shine like polished boots; the negroes in Canada look as if they had been white-washed, in comparison with those in Arkansas. We think it all moonshine about their becoming extinct, judging from the large numbers of young darkies to be seen around the shanties; one would be inclined to think that they produce by ovation, their numbers are so great. They appeared to be happy and contented, and are settling down to work as well as when in bondage. Many of them dress stylish, and hold offices of high position.

We met several Canadians and Englishmen; they were as well satisfied as settlers are here, and had no desire to leave; in fact, some could not be induced to return. Canada in that country is looked on as a place stricken with small-pox in summer and frozen corpses in winter.

The war news is closely watched and a strong pro-Russian feeling prevails; among the best informed, however, a strong and growing admiration of Great Britain is to be found, but these expressions dare not be uttered by any politicians or stump speakers, or their chance for election to any office would be ruined. Office-seekers are more numerous there than with us, and this is one of the greatest curses to this continent; we have enough in Canada. Striving to obtain positions that will give unearned and undeserved wealth is what has caused repudiation and tends to cause State and national bankruptcy. The franchise is too low, and men of straw get power, who have nothing to lose and are reckless in expenditure.

Arkansas is called the State of roses. Our visit was made in May, and we saw it in its rosiest condition; everything was pleasing and pleasant to us, and for any one in Canada desiring a pleasant trip for health or pleasure, we would recommend them to go to Hot Springs and call at Little Rock, St. Louis, Chicago, etc., etc. You will see something worth remembering. We would not advise our readers who are on good farms or in good circumstances in Canada to think of selling their possessions to go west or south before first going and examining for themselves. There are many going. One day when we were at Little Rock eight Canadians came there to view the country; 8,000 acres were purchased the same day by some Germans for a Lutheran colony. Many Canadians have already purchased land; one of our M. P.'s, Mr. Oliver, of Oxford, has purchased 2,000 acres in Grand Prairie.