

VILLAINOUS EXTORTION.

The villainous extortion of the American Express Co., is a subject on which more able men should have employed their pens ere now. A farmer in this County wishing to improve his stock in all classes purchased three Dorking fowls from Mr. George Millar of Markham, who is the oldest stock importer that we now know of in Canada. Mr. Millar took the fowls in a box to the Express office, knowing that the G. T. R. Co., refuse to take charge of small freight of any kind. The Express Co. would not forward them unless the sum of \$4 was paid for the freight from Toronto to London, a distance of 120 miles—weight not exceeding 35 lbs. Mr. Millar refused to pay such a charge and took the fowls home. The farmer having business at Mr. Millar's last month, determined to bring the fowls with him. He brought them to the station in a common tea chest, but the railway authorities would not allow them to be placed in the baggage car, although there was scarcely a trunk or anything else in it. He applied to the Station Master at Toronto, but to no purpose. He then went to the Express agent on the train, and explained the case showing that he was a passenger by the train, and that he had no other baggage. The agent consented to take them for twenty-five cents, which was then paid. He then took his seat considering things all right, and proceeded to the city. The following morning he applied at the Express office for his fowls, but found they had sent them to Mr. John Mason's hotel. He found them there right enough, but he also found that Mr. Mason's clerk had paid the Express Co., a charge of 50 cents, which sum they refused to take in their own money, without two cents discount.

The same farmer during the last year, had a parcel sent to him from Toronto to to Frank Smith, Esq., the freight of which was paid in full in Toronto, but was again demanded from Mr. Smith's foreman, and paid by him.

The merchants may make their own complaints, and we hear they are many and great against this Company. It is undoubtedly a shame and disgrace that we cannot have three fowls sent from one part of the country to another without such extortion. We have paid heavily for our railroad accommodation. Cannot we find men enough in our own country to manage our Express business, without these grasping Yankees imposing on us in the way they are now doing.

NOTICE.—A meeting of the Directors of the West Middlesex Agricultural Association will be held at the Union Hotel in Strathroy, on Saturday the 23rd of February at ten o'clock a.m.

JAMES KEEFER, Sec.

If those gentlemen to whom we have sent our papers approve of our undertaking, and can see the advantages it may be to them and the public, and have not paid for the paper, let them go to a few of their most intelligent neighbors, and get up a club of five, then you have the paper free. Remember printers will not work for nothing.

Mr. Wm. Taylor, a plain farmer near Elginfield, a person that we had not known before, nor have we been in that part of the country, called at the Office the other day, and gave us the names of fifteen paid subscribers, and says he will bring us more. Why cannot you do likewise in your section.

We find there is great dissatisfaction at every place we go in regard to the management of the Provincial Exhibition in Toronto. We heard of some desiring to get up an Exhibition to be held at the same time. If other parties assist with communications of importance about the subject, we will issue a weekly number if necessary. The "Canada Farmer" has not done its duty. Down with it.

Mr. John Hughes of the Court House Hotel, opposite the Court House in London, is taking subscribers for this paper.

EDITORIAL CHAIR.

We have on our table the American Agriculturist for July—thanks to O. Judd & Co. We consider it the best illustrated Agricultural paper in America. The engravings are well executed, the subjects chosen good, the reading matter useful, practical and of interest. We can safely recommend it to our farmers. Price \$150 per annum.

The Journal of New York State Agricultural Society, published in Albany is a neat little paper. It quotes extensively from Mr. Howland's visit to America, which is interesting.

The Markham Express and Cobourg Sentinel are both well conducted papers for local news.

The Kingston Whig for Jan. gives a long interesting, laughable and poetic effusion of the past year's proceedings. There is much in it that would be of interest to the readers of other papers were it copied.

The Age of Strathroy, a good local paper, should be well supported by the Farmers of West Middlesex. We are pleased with the paper and wish it success.

The Mother's Journal and Family Visitant, published by Sheldon & Co., 500 Broadway, New York, is a monthly book containing 36 pages of useful and interesting family reading, price \$1 50 per annum. We shall be happy to receive subscriptions for either of the American publications—specimens of which may be seen at this office.

The Hammatonian Cultivist, A. N. Spangle, editor, Philadelphia, is a neat little paper, only 25c per annum.

From a report of the West Riding of Middlesex Agricultural Society we extract the following: Your Board are happy to report that the Farmer's Advocate, a Monthly Agricultural Journal has been established in the County, during the last year and recommends the same for the inspection of its members and the Farmers of Canada.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS TO ANSWER.

The questions in our last issue must have been too difficult for the little folks, as we received no answers. We hope the following will meet with some response.

What must be done to conduct a paper right?

Write.

What is necessary for a farmer to assist him?

System.

What would give a blind man great delight?

Light.

Let us have the Farmer's Advocate to show a system. Assist him.

A copy of the paper sent to every one that sends a correct answer to the above.

An address for the purpose of advancing the Agricultural interests of the County will be delivered at the Western Hotel, in the city of London, on Saturday the 26th of February, at 2 o'clock. Also at Switzer's Hotel, Strathroy, Feb. 28d, at 2 o'clock. The Presidents of Agricultural societies, Reeve of the County and other gentlemen interested in the prosperity of the country are expected to attend.

APPOINTMENT. The Annual Agricultural Emporium Sale will take place in or near the City of London, on the Second Thursday of October. Gentlemen having thorough breed stock, good seed or Implements to dispose of, can have them entered in the catalogue a month previous to sale.

Communications.

THE WILLOWS.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate,

SIR: I see that you are soliciting communications on practical subjects, and as I approve of your paper, and think it will be the means of doing much good, I now forward you a manuscript for your perusal. If you think it deserving a space in your columns, I may forward others.

There are at least 200 species of willow growing in America.

The White Willow (*Salix alba*) is the most rapid grower of them all—trees will often increase two inches in diameter in a season. This species is a native of Europe but does well in America. It is well adapted as a screen to protect crops, orchards, gardens or farm premises. Small