

North American farmer. This is well understood now by the leading promoters of agricultural improvement both in the United States and in the British Colonies. But in this district of Western New York they feel the influence upon local prices of the great importations of wheat and flour from the new States west of Lake Erie. The tide of this commerce in grain has now turned in direction. Instead of sending westward from Buffalo its thousands of barrels of flour, as it did in former years, New York now yearly receives from the west, through the same port, its hundreds of thousands of casks of flour and of bushels of wheat. So that, besides the improvements which the advance of knowledge suggests, self-interest is now urging the farmer of New York to the adoption of wiser and better modes of culture. "What," said the President of the Oswego Agricultural Society, in his address at the close of 1850—"What, I ask, is to meet this competition of the west, but greater skill and care in the mode of agriculture?" This is precisely the language which speakers and writers in our own country have of late years been almost daily addressing to British farmers.*

Nos. 5 and 6. *The Helderberg Limestones and Sandstones* (5), rise immediately behind the Onondaga salt group. Where I drove along the edge of this limestone with Mr. Geddes it formed a high escarpment, from which the view of the flat lands below, and of the country towards the lake, was beautiful and extensive. Though far from what it was half a century ago, this great stretch of undulating plain still seemed strange and savage to an eye accustomed to the finished and artificially picturesque appearance of an English landscape. Swamps and lakes, and rude natural forests, with intervening tracts of land under waving corn, remind the spectator how much nature yet rules, how long human industry must patiently labour still before the asperities of a new country can be rubbed off, how many generations of the enterprising men who now possess it must still toil and adorn this fine land before it will smile at their feet like that which their forefathers left.

At this limestone the natural richness of the country as a wheat region begins to fall off. The soil upon the limestone itself, and upon its subordinate sandstone, is often thin, resting on a hard rock, but, where it happens to be deep, it is full of fragments of limestone, and is of excellent wheat-growing quality.

The Marcellus Shale (6), which overlies the Helderberg limestone, is thin, varying from a few feet in thickness to a maximum

* Those who are interested in the wheat-producing capabilities of the United States generally, and in their future relations to our own wheat markets, will find the subject discussed at some length in the 13th and 25th chapters of the author's '*Notes on North America.*'