

dust, upon which are built the blocks of ice to the required height, filling in all openings carefully with small broken pieces, and leaving all round the outside a space of about ten inches, which is filled up with sawdust and pressed down with the foot, as each alternate tier of ice is built up, with about the same thickness of sawdust spread over the top when the house is filled. There are two Louvre board ventilators one at each end, near the roof, which are always open to admit air, besides a chimney-shaped ventilator over the roof, also open night and day.

The great secret, I hold, is in the sawdust being a non-conductor, and not in the house itself nor its situation. The house here spoken of stands facing the south, fully exposed to the sun the greater part of the day. Straw of any kind I consider a complete nuisance, as it soon rots, whereas the sawdust may be used for a number of years. The only precaution necessary is to see that when any ice is removed, the exposed part is covered up again, and all will be right. Finally, I would say to one and all who wish to keep ice for years, try the sawdust. Chesnut Park. G. VAIR.

NOTE BY EDITOR.—In the former article above alluded to, straw was recommended not as the best, but as the most easily procured material, always at hand on the farm, and it will answer the purpose nearly as well as sawdust for one season.

### Commendatory.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have read the first number of the CANADA FARMER for 1869, and cannot help making some remarks on the same. I have been a subscriber from the commencement of the paper, and well pleased with all the first series, but I consider the last an improvement on its predecessors, and think it strange the paper is not taken by every householder in the Dominion. I would especially call attention to three articles, which I consider of more than ordinary value. The first, in the stock department, on page 7, "on the Winter Management of Live Stock;" second, "the Culture of the Apple," on page 11; and third, "Entomology," on page 30. I have had each volume nicely bound for 30 cents, and the volume of 1869, will make a more handsome book, as it will be more compact. I am well pleased with the former books, as it is impossible to open one of the five without finding something interesting on agricultural or horticultural pursuits. Had the same facilities been at my disposal in times past, I should now have quite a library. According to my judgment, the price being the same, I would without fear or favour choose the CANADA FARMER to-day in preference to any of the United States journals, excellent as many of these are.

PETER SHISLER.

Bertie, March 5, 1869.

### Mr. Simon Beattie.

To the Editor.

SIR,—I see in the CANADA FARMER, Dec. 15, a proposal for getting up a testimonial of some kind to Mr. S. Beattie, for what he has done in the way of importing thorough-bred stock of various kinds into Canada. I believe he has done more in this way than any other single individual, and I am sure many like myself will be happy at having the opportunity thus offered of showing their obligation to Mr. Beattie, which they could not do in any other way.

But I owe Mr. Beattie a debt of gratitude of a different kind, which I have much pleasure in mentioning here. Two years ago my father, Alex. Kerr, of Westminster, who is since dead, in going to Mr. Snell's sale of stock, arrived at the Brampton station of the railway at 11 o'clock p.m., the night before the sale, and in stepping off the car to the platform, it being dark and ice on the steps, and the car still in motion, his foot slipped and he fell between the car and the platform, with his legs across one of the rails. The next moment he would either have been crushed to death or had both his legs taken off, when this Mr. Beattie, who happened to be near, at considerable risk to himself, took hold of my father and drew him up on the platform, and thus saved his life. I know, if my father had been alive, he would have been happy at this proposal in honour of Mr. Beattie, and I shall be glad to have a small share in it as soon as the course is pointed out. JOHN KERR.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, MARCH 15, 1869.

### Agricultural Pursuits.

An evil against which we cannot too often and too clearly speak, is the tendency among the young men of our country to concentrate in our large towns and cities. The vulgar question of "How to make a living" is one which very naturally presents itself to young men at the threshold of life, at the point where they find themselves confronted with the realities of life, and have to fight its battles. With many, it is simply a question of living—of providing food and clothing; with others, who have little fear on this point, it is a question also of how to get on, so as to make their mark in their day and generation. With the former, it is a matter of necessity; with the latter, one partly of necessity and partly of ambition. Both classes, however, have to face the subject of their future calling or avocation; and as the matter affects both themselves and succeeding generations it is a most important one.

The occupations of a city life are admittedly very different from those of a

country one, and there are special advantages appertaining to each. We do not complain of men who have special aptitude for commercial, banking, speculating, or other such pursuits betaking themselves to their proper specialty. That is not only becoming, but in most cases essential to success, and generally advantageous to the country. As a rule, no man should go into a business for which he is not fitted and has no special liking. The trouble is that, in too many cases, men will try what they are unfitted for, and consequently fail of success. In this country, a noticeable tendency—as we have intimated—is that of men whose fathers were farmers seeking to displace the paternal avocation with something—as they suppose—more genteel and more profitable.

Now, we hold it to be a matter for congratulation that we have a fine agricultural country. We have broad and fertile acres, and many of them. As compared with the British Isles, the extent of our country can only be properly characterised by the school-boy's superlative degree, especially if we count in the vast and fertile regions of the Red River and Saskatchewan valleys. No country—other things being equal—could possibly fail to compete advantageously in the race of life, which has a large agricultural population. Cicero said so, and he had far weaker reasons than we could adduce, for the assertion. Our main dependence must be on our agricultural resources, and on the stout hearts and brawny arms that develop them. The pursuit of agriculture, therefore, must with us ever be an honourable and profitable calling, because it is the mainstay of the country, and success lies in its path.

Holding these views, we cannot admit it to be wise or politic for country lads to be sighing after city life. Cities and towns will only bear a certain number advantageously, and when that number is exceeded, the result is most disastrous to young aspirants for "situations," or for "genteel" avocations. It is notorious that the legal and medical professions are becoming overcrowded. In this very city there are many belonging to these professions who can barely make ends meet, and not a few, we fear, who cannot be said to do even that. In some cases this is, perhaps, attributable to want of ability and tact; but the great cause is, undoubtedly, the number who enter those callings. Young men on the farm sigh to themselves—"be not like dumb driven cattle; be a hero in the strife,"—and the inspiration drives them to aim at what they are probably un-