

**On the Wing.**

MANITOBA.

*(Continued from vol. 17, page 251.)*

The extreme wet season at the time of our first visit to Manitoba prevented us from seeing as much of the country as we wished; and the rapid, hurried manner of our flight last summer, precluded us from observing as much as we could wish of the agricultural capabilities, prospects and progress of the farmers themselves. The most convincing testimony we had was a drive of four miles into the country in the vicinity of Portage La Prairie. Here we noticed abundance of good grain—milch cows and young cattle running on the prairies, looking quite as sleek, fat and comfortable as they appear in Ontario or in England. In fact, we never saw such abundance of feed, and the cattle appearing more comfortable or in better condition on grass. Of course, this was the best time to see them, namely, in August, as both the cold and hot weather had passed, and the flies had ceased annoying them. The rapidity with which the cattle accumulated fat at this season was perfectly astonishing. Self-binding reapers were at work in every direction in the large, even fields of wheat, with heads well filled, without the least sign of Hessian fly, midge or chinch bug to be seen. Such a glorious sight delighted us, especially when upon frequently going into some of the fields and examining the straw, not a speck of rust or mildew was to be seen—not a lodged spot, but all a standing and heavy crop. The straw was the brightest and cleanest, and stood the stiffest of any we had ever seen, and we have seen a good deal, both on this continent and in Europe.

We had formerly some grave doubts about the country and its capabilities. We know many one-sided and over-alluring statements have been made by enthusiasts and interested parties; but this sight inspired us with such confidence that we felt that, if youth was on our side, and the knowledge that we have of the difficulties that exist in Europe, we should no longer hesitate about making a change, if we had means to make a start in Manitoba. But in every place there are obstacles to overcome and dangers to be met. The two worst of these in Manitoba are the scarcity of fuel and the length of the winter, which is far more to be dreaded than its severity.

Between Portage La Prairie and Brandon there is considerable poor land; in fact, much that we consider worthless. At Brandon the land is not so rich as at Portage La Prairie. Settlers have favored the Qu'Appelle Valley, in which section one of our sons selected a location, on which he has erected his house and commenced breaking. He had enquired and travelled about to select a site; he found timber, water, hay, prairie and grain land, and appears well pleased with his location, being four miles from Grenfell Station. He considers his land ten times more valuable than much he had seen. The further we went by rail through this Qu'Appelle Valley, the better the land appeared. We hear the land near Fort Qu'Appelle has many advantages not to be found in much of the prairie country, there being wood and water, good drainage, and fine scenery in this locality. Deer, rabbits, grouse, partridge, prairie hens, fish and water fowl are found here in considerable quantities.

On page 44 we give a sketch of Fort Qu'Appelle drawn on the spot and furnished to us, which will give some idea of that locality. Much of this fine valley is owned by the Qu'Appelle Land Company, who are rapidly disposing of it to settlers. The rapidity with which improvements are made on farms, villages and towns that spring up in this vast and distant part of our Dominion, is altogether

beyond what we could have ever believed, had we not personally seen the changes. The improvements are so great that it is not to be wondered at that so many are flocking into and taking possession of this valley. We should be sorry to disturb the minds of the contented farmers in our older Provinces, and would by no means advise one of them to sell out or move there with a wife or family, before first examining for themselves and weighing well all the disadvantages before parting with a comfortable home. Still there always will be some dissatisfied with their lot, particularly young men. To those we would also say that without a sufficient sum of money to start with and keep themselves for about two years, or unless they have friends to go to, then they had better try and earn money enough in Ontario before going, so that if they were not fully satisfied they could come back again.

**Herd Books.**

Herd books are of value for the facility they afford in tracing the genealogy of any animal. There have been and still are numerous herd books for stock registers, kept by careful farmers. In England a body of farmers united and consented to keep one general one for the Durham Shorthorn cattle. It was conducted on fair and honorable principles, and now stands pre-eminent as the most reliable record in existence. There have been numerous herd books established on this continent, most of which are in the United States. The Shorthorn breeders in the States have now centered all the interests in one. Large sums are being subscribed, and the Shorthorn men in the States appear almost unanimous in its favor, and it is our impression they will make it a success. A great many of the wealthy breeders of the States are subscribing \$500 each in loans, to complete the purchase of the Allen & Bailey books. Some Canadians are also subscribing liberally towards it. The Government of the States in no way interferes with the work of the farmers in this, one of the great means of developing the wealth of their country, and we believe they are acting judiciously, as in England, that is, to leave this thing entirely in the hands of the farmers. In Canada the Government took control of the Canadian herd book, at least, they entirely controlled the Board of Agriculture and Arts, under whose management the herd book exists, and have made and altered laws to maintain and uphold them, and both act as one. The Canadian herd book was establishing for itself a high reputation on this continent. But for the personal aggrandisement of a powerful combination of members of the Board, the high standard of the Canadian herd book was lowered without the consent of many extensive breeders. The consequence has been a general dissatisfaction, and such an outcry raised both in Canada and in the States against it; that the breeders of Shorthorns found it necessary to establish a new herd book for themselves. The Government officials, when too late, attempted to make amends, and now we have two opposition herd books. Many farmers have paid into the Treasurer of the Government's hands various sums in hard cash for the registration of stock, and by a recent act, very large quantities of the stock that had thus been paid for was struck out of the herd book, giving great dissatisfaction to many of the farmers who have been duped by the old herd book and its manipulators, and have no means of redress. It is now a difficult matter for many farmers to decide where to register their stock. Some of our most extensive breeders have become so disgusted with the management of the Government herd book that they will have nothing to do with it,

and will register only in the American herd book, and subscribe willingly \$500 towards the same. Others are uniting their efforts to abolish the new Canadian herd book established by the breeders, which book is called the British American Shorthorn herd book. These two new herd books, at the present time, take the place of the old one. The Americans, and some Canadians, are in favor of supporting only one, namely, the American; but we would strongly advise every loyal Canadian to maintain our own herd book. More particularly is the necessity of this impressed on our mind since attending the great fat stock exhibition in Chicago. Every Canadian and many Americans saw the great injustice done to Canada by not awarding the justly and fairly earned sweepstake prizes to Canadian stock. This should show to every one the great necessity of maintaining our own herd book. It is our opinion that the old herd book will be abandoned by the Government. Why should we maintain two? We do not think that Government money should be expended to oppose the private enterprise of farmers.

**United States Letter.***(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)*

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20, 1883.

The increased and increasing interest manifested in agricultural topics by legislature and the public press, within the past two years, is a healthful sign. When advanced thinkers, statesmen and wise political economists turn their attention to this subject, on the success and progress of which the prosperity of the nation depends, we may expect to see many thousand citizens led by their teachings and example from the over-crowded marts of our great cities, to the more healthful and nobler calling of the agriculturist. These reflections, applicable alike to Canada as to the United States, are suggested by two things: First, the showing of the recent census of this country, from which it appears that the cities have increased in population ten-fold more than the rural districts, and that the increase in the number of farmers is far below the percentage of other callings in the increased population. Secondly, in Congress more speeches have been made favoring the enlargement of the duties of the Agricultural Department, and in the interest of agriculture, and more conventions of prominent agriculturists, wool-growers and stockmen, have been held in these two years than have been seen or heard before in twenty years or more.

At the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, the Wool-Growers' Association and the American Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, which met at Columbus, Ohio, a few days ago, addresses on these various subjects were delivered by men who are not only practical Shorthorn breeders and wool-growers, but who are among the leading men in the country. Prof. N. S. Townshend, of the Ohio State University, in his address on the "sheep as a farm animal," spoke of the sheep in early farm life as being pastured on the common and driven to farming spaces of ground, where they were kept over the night to produce fertilizers for the ground. This way of enriching the ground was carried on in a systematic manner in old times, and the number of sheep graded to the quantity of land. He then discussed the modern relation of wool to agriculture, and the necessity of wool to the population. Facts were presented showing that the U. S. only produced about two-thirds the wool its people used. Wool, he said, at 35 and 40 cents a pound, in this country, is not as good as wheat and corn as a crop. These latter, and the growth of dairy products, have exceeded that of wool raising. He stated that mutton was growing in demand, as compared