

addition to aching teeth and pains in the limbs. But on the 5th of May came a deluge of rain and half a gale of wind.

But the work of the farms went bravely on, and never before were so many ploughs and harrows and sowers of spring grain seen on the fields of Canada as in the two last weeks of April and this first week of May; for year by year the farms under culture and the acres of two thirds of all the farms increase in number. Now, are the hard of hand, the stout of heart—the farmers of Canada, their thrifty wives, comely daughters, and manly young sons, working and singing or saying, or working as if they sang or said, 'Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise;' and 'He who by the plough would thrive, himself must either hold or drive!' But driving is going out of custom; the art of ploughing has risen above the use of a driver. The good ploughman guides both the implement and the horses drawing it.

Though in Canada spring grain is sown in May it is harvested, the seasons being propitious, as early as grain will be, if sown in England a month sooner. Is it known to you, young farmer, why the budding, the leafing and flowering of plants, the germination, and springing up of seeds advance so rapidly on this northern side of America, after the long deferred and slow beginning? Some will tell you the fast growth is due to the sun's rays; and that they are stronger and brighter at the late period when the North American spring rushes into life than in the earlier months in the British Islands. That is not so. The principle of vegetable life, and the invigorator of animal life, comes with the light of the sun, but it is not itself light. Chemists and chemistry reveal the cause of instant and rapid growth to be the larger prevalence of an invisible something which has been termed actinism.

The luminous rays of the sun can be divided, as is well known, into the primitive and compound rainbow colors by the prism, a piece of triangular crystal; and the degrees of heat, contained in, or accompanying each color of light can be measured.—The compound color, orange, has more heat than yellow, and red more than orange; but in an invisible stream just beyond red, there is more heat than red contains, and something more than heat. It is the stream of the spirit-matter of life, whatever that may be. The photographer in taking the sunlight into his service to imprint the images which he seeks to preserve in a picture, knows that it is not always the sunny days that give him the best impressions.—Actinism, that spirit-matter of life, (for such I venture to term it) which fills the groves with the song of birds, which covers the meadows with green and flowery herbage, which inspires alike the poet to soar on the soul's wing, and the pretty little lambs to skip and play in the meadows; which makes mother's sweet darling, the rosy, happy babe leap with delight, and frisk in her arms like the lambs upon the lea; which leads the youthful, blushing, modest pair into the orchard to breathe the tender tale—the spirit-matter which does all this in behalf of life and love, and the joys that never weary, the joys arising from things young and beautiful, divine in source, and everlastingly renewed, gives the photographer the pictures which though imprinted when the light of the sun reveals the form of the objects, are not otherwise owing to light. And that something, which chemists can detect, yet cannot catch and confine by itself, infuses life and growth into vegetation. It converts the starch of the wheat into sugar, and with the chemistry of the soil (the ammonia produced in the soil through union with the carbonic acid of the atmosphere,) the sugar of the wheat, or barley, or other seed is by that marvellous spirit-matter, actinism—companion of the light of the sun, but in itself invisible—quickened with the principles and action of vitality. The North American continent is alike noticeable for the clearness of the photographic pictures obtained by artists and for the rapid germination of seeds, and the growth of plants.

The actinic rays possibly owe their existence to the action of light on the electric atmosphere which surrounds our globe, or to its contact with some other and unknown element in nature. The existence of chemical rays has long been known, says a scientific analyst: 'To their influence have been traced long ago, the various and gorgeous colors of the vegetable kingdom. To them also, in the animal kingdom, have been ascribed the subtle hues of the African and the peachy tints on the cheek of youthful beauty. To their discoloring properties the bleacher owes his art, and the painter his want of immortality. It is only however of late years that the properties of chemical light have been carefully considered.

Agriculture in Canada may be seen in all its stages, from the rudely imperfect to the far advanced. We see the culture of patches between the stumps on the feeble clearing in the woods; where as yet hope and visions of the future sustain the strong arms of the adventuring settlers, and where one day they will have thriving estates to give them joy and reward. We see, perchance, in the same township (a township is about ten miles wide) farms on which the stumps have been removed, the fields fenced in, orchards in full bearing, farm buildings good, and the land cultivated according to the best systems of cropping suitable to the soil or commercial situation of the place. We see the antique ploughs little changed in form from the old Roman, or Gallic, or Egyptian, which is also the modern plough of Spain, as I saw it when in military service in that distracted country, in such districts as had not been utterly devastated by intestine war. And in travelling through Canada we discern all gradations of the implement from the ancient to those the latest patented; which though patented, are not always improved. The ploughs suitable for open arable fields are not convenient to wriggle zigzag around the stumps in new clearings. That represented in the engraving on the first page, is being used in a field from which the stumps are cleared away; but the father of those youths has other portions of his farm uncleared of stumps; therefore the implement is of that medium form, short in the leverage of the 'stils,' but strong in its iron work and drawn by stout horses to cut through the ramifying roots of the old trees, which used on other sections of the farm. The artist could have found a more symmetrical implement for a picture, but that was selected from some practicality in use on farms which are not yet completely liberated from the obdurate remnants of the primeval forest.

In like manner, in describing particular farms, as from time to time many will be visited and described, it is not deemed advisable to select only those occupied by wealthy gentlemen, interesting though these be, but to represent what Canadian Agriculture is down to the humblest efforts of English John, or Paddy, or Sandy, logging and plodding in the wilderness bewildered.

There are fertile and profitable farms on the ridge of Abram's Plains west of Quebec. Mr. Mathew Davidson and others on the battle ground of St. Foye, (where the second battle of Quebec was fought, 1760; see Canadian Illustrated News, p. p., 294, 295, May 2nd, 1863,) produce as good root crops as any in the Province. Colonel Thomas Campbell, C.B., of St. Hilaire, on the river Richelieu, east of Montreal, has a farm which, to look upon, rejoices the heart of the traveller; yet sometimes the spring grain cannot be sown there until June. The farming about St. Hyacinthe, below St. Hilaire, is all profitable, because the soil is a rich alluvial, formerly the floor of a salt water ocean, subsequently the bottom of a fresh water lake, afterwards through immeasurable ages a forest.

The largest breadth of land under spring sown grain which I have met with, was at Vaudreuil, (pronounced Voodroy,) on the western branch of the Ottawa, near its junction with the St. Lawrence—the scene of Moore's Canadian Boatman's Song. It was on the property of that much esteemed gentleman recently deceased, the Hon. Colonel Harwood. But the largest breadth of wheat I have seen was in the valley of the Grand River, over 300 miles further west, on the opposite shore from Cainsville, three miles below the town of Brantford. The estate is called, Oxbough, consisting of 800 acres; 600 of which were under crop when I visited there in 1861, and 400 bearing wheat, the noble plant looking, at the beginning of July, as fine as any ever grown in the south of England, or in the Lothians of Scotland. When I first beheld the lovely arrangement of avenue, lawn, winding walks, picturesque coppice and old park-like trees, all obtained by judicious cuttings in the old forest, not a single bush planted for effect, I said: 'Here lives an Englishman.' That Englishman was Major Bown, a native of the county of Somerset. He is father of Dr. John Bown, M. P. P., for the county of Brant.

On one of the best cultivated estates in central Canada, is Archerfield, the property and place of residence of Mr. James Croil, son of a Glasgow merchant, but with his brothers long resident in this Province.—Mr. Croil published in 1861, through Mr. John Lovell, of Montreal, the first county history produced in Canada; it is a 'History of the County of Dundas.' Archerfield, is a new name to the estate. In the war of 1812 it was a field of battle, the famous Cryster's Farm.

ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE.
'Whistler at the Plough.'

NOTICE.

The public will please beware of a smooth-faced young man calling himself T. Dodd, as we understand from letters in our possession, that he has been canvassing for the 'Canadian Illustrated News.' Dodd canvassed a few days for us in Toronto, and not liking the gentleman's manner of doing business we discharged him. Without our knowledge or consent he has taken money from people in the country, representing himself sometimes as an agent, and at other times proprietor of the 'Canadian Illustrated News.'

NOTICE TO CANVASSERS.

All parties heretofore canvassing for the *Canadian Illustrated News*, will please call at the office and settle up. The public are cautioned against subscribing, or paying money to any one for said paper, unless the name of the party soliciting such subscription appear in the paper as Agent, or have the written authority of the undersigned that he is a properly authorized Agent.

W. A. FERGUSON.

Hamilton, April 7th, 1863.

OUR AGENTS.

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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, MAY 9, 1863.

IMMIGRATION.

In view of the prospects of an augmented immigration during the present season, we expected some interesting reports from the parliamentary committee to whom the emigration question was referred. So far, we must confess disappointment.

Their second report which is now to hand is chiefly occupied with a digest of the recommendations of former committees. Of these the present committee endorse the following:

1st. That an emigrant map of the province be at once prepared, 'showing the settled, partially settled, and wholly unsettled portions of the country,' and that the same should be circulated in Great Britain, Germany and the northern countries of Europe.

2d. That township or district maps be distributed gratuitously to immigrants and native settlers; and also placed on the Canadian line of steamers and other emigrant passenger vessels, and in possession of the local Clergy, Crown Land Agents, Colonization Roads Agents, and Emigrant Agents.

3d. That an agent be appointed for New York and Portland, during the emigration season.

4th. That an agent be appointed to reside in England, with large powers and corresponding rank, who might in other respects also be found useful as a Representative of the Province.

Such arrangements as these might very appropriately form part of the details of some comprehensive scheme of Emigration, but in themselves they are far from meeting the wants of the case. The problem is not alone how to induce emigrants to come to Canada in preference to other countries; but how to retain them when they have come; how to make them feel satisfied that they have improved their circumstances, in a degree sufficient to compensate them for the sacrifices, which a removal from the homes of their childhood, necessarily involves. This improvement is the motive that induces emigration in the first place. An emigrant does not come to Canada because he prefers it, other things being equal, to his own country, but because he seeks, possibly a fortune, certainly a more comfortable home than that which he formerly had. If on arrival here he finds his hopes were but idle dreams, he naturally becomes discontented, every mail spreads his discontent among the friends whom he has left behind, and who may have intended some day to join him.

Possibly he removes to the United States in search of what he failed to find with us. It may interest the committee to know that this process is going on at the present moment. Not a few of our people, unable to obtain suitable employment with us are carrying their industry and skill into the neighboring country. It is idle to argue that these men could obtain a living here 'at something.' The question with the emigrant is not only where he can obtain a living, but where he can obtain the best. Can Canada then—speaking generally of course—honestly promise him this? To a certain class she unquestionably can; to the man of moderate capital she can offer an almost unlimited field for manufacturing and agricultural industry, where by economy and good management he is certain to attain a far better position than he can reasonably expect to at home.

But how about the man without capital, who in order to support himself and family, requires employment immediately on landing. In relation to him we are by no means so fortunately situated. True, he is not likely to starve, but his hopes are almost certain to be disappointed, unless measures be taken which the report of the committee does even not hint at. With a view of doing something in this matter, we hope the committee will examine the workings of the system of government credit to settlers, which prevails in some of the western States. It may be that a moderate sum advanced in this way, to men that are willing to settle on and improve our waste lands, would be sound economy.

With regard to the manufacturing branches of industry, government can do but little. That little seems to us to lie in a modification of the limited liability laws with a view of facilitating the formation of co-operative associations, for manufacturing purposes.—We hope to find the committee dealing with those questions in subsequent reports.

FIRST VOLUME COMPLETED.

Number 26, the present issue, completes the first volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Many difficulties have been encountered in organizing a permanent staff of Artists and Engravers; but these are happily overcome. Subscribers who prepaid the Paper for six months, will, we trust, renew their subscriptions forthwith. They may rely on this being a first-class Illustrated Newspaper; in literature and engravings second to none in the world.

BEAUTIFUL SISTO TO THE MAN IN THE MOON.—The Duke of Sutherland, who has spent a considerable part of the winter in Southern Italy, has purchased a beautiful production of Signor Genaro Cali's chisel, called by him "Hecate." The history of the design—itsself a poem—is poetical. The artist, who was spending his summer in Torre dell' Annunziata some years since, was struck one night with the beauty of the crescent moon, and imagined the goddess sleeping within it. In 1853, the Count Aquila, the uncle of the ex-king Francesco, visited London, and on his return went to the artist's studio. Struck by the composition of this Diana, His Royal Highness immediately ordered it to be executed in marble, agreeing to pay for it 3,000 ducats; and so pleased was he with the novelty and grace of the design, that he announced his intention of presenting it to Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Political embarrassments, however, arising between England and Naples, and the relations between the two courts being interrupted, the Count broke off his bargain with the sculptor. The Duke of Sutherland, who visited his studio a few days since, was so struck with the poetry and beauty of the work, that he immediately purchased it, and it is now en route to England. The goddess reposes in deep sleep in the crescent moon, with her right arm and head reposing on one of the horns, whilst the left arm, in a state of abandonment, represents Night marking the hours. The artist has well preserved the character of the chaste Diana. Signor Cali, it will not be forgotten, is the artist who sent to the exhibition last year a group in marble representing Pieta, which belongs to the city of Naples.