

CANADA.

(Written for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.)

Mirrored in those mighty waters,
 In that chain of lakes sublime,
 Bards prophetic see an empire
 Struggling in the womb of Time.
 Fraught with many a stately haven,
 Where her gay rigged Argos ride;
 Marts o'erflowing with the treasures
 Teeming from her champaign wide;
 Where the brave Canadian woodman
 Erst made groves primeval ring,
 While to rear his humble roof-tree
 Prone he laid the forest king;
 Stand proud triumphs of the cunning
 Handed down from Goth and Greek,
 'Neath the pure Canadian azure;
 Some with tongues harmonious speak—
 How, through lapse of many ages
 From that first lone pilgrim band,
 Sprang a race of wealth unbounded,
 Other proofs through time shall stand;
 How the fathers taught the children,
 As they fought their arduous way,
 Still for fight and kindly leading
 At the great white throne to pray.
 Long as Erie's falling waters
 Shake Niagara's wave-worn shore,
 Prosper England 'yond the ocean,
 Still increase her golden store.

The Farm.

A Po in Grain Culture.

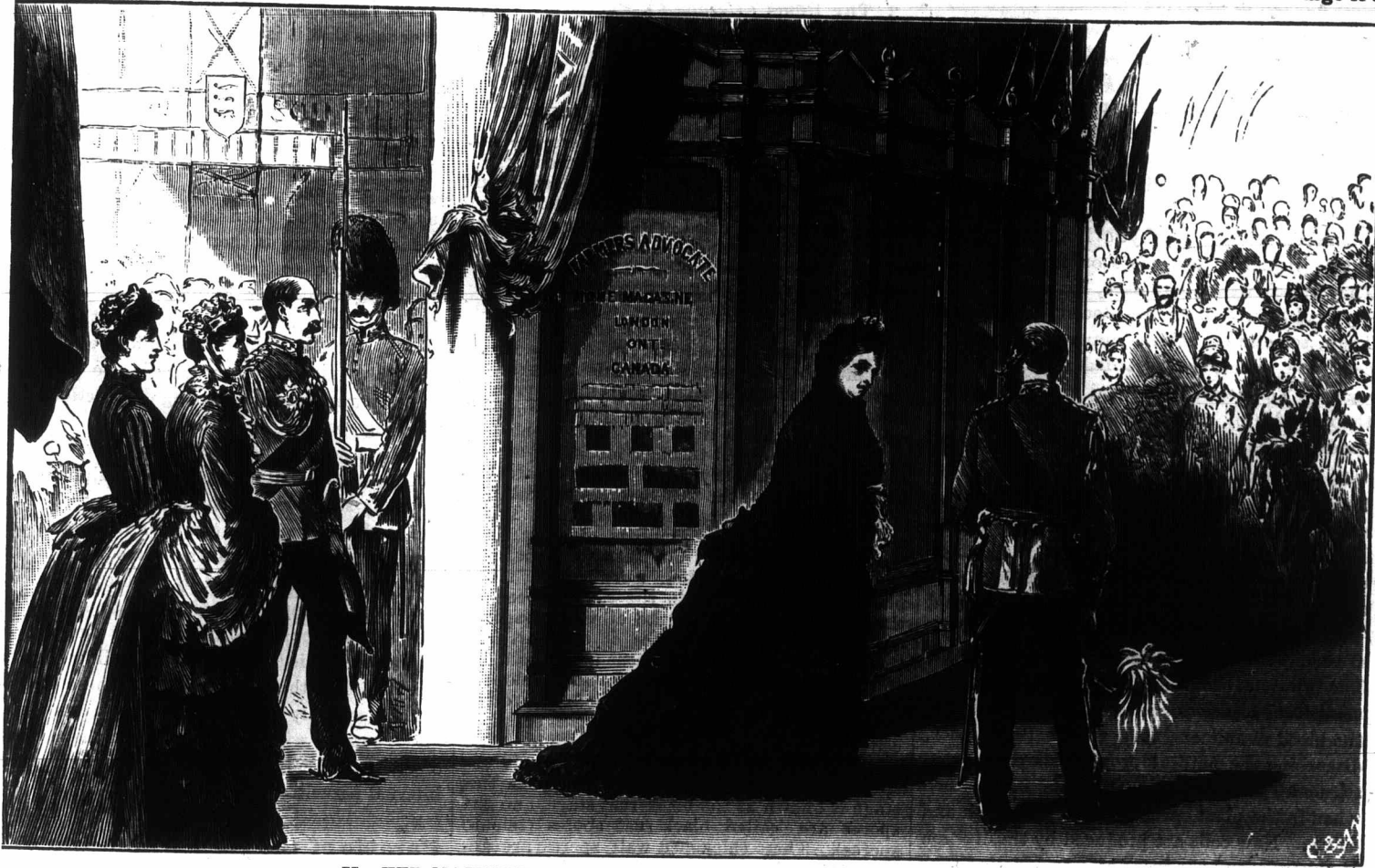
Various factors influence for better or worse the character of our grain crops, both in quantity and quality, such as temperature, humidity of atmosphere, condition of soil, amount of plant food, character of seed, etc., says C. S. Plumb, of the N. Y. Experiment Station. Some of these factors can be regulated, others not. Perhaps the one condition most subject to our control is that of the character of seed. Seed-breeding is none the less necessary than in stock-breeding. Poor parents produce weak progeny. Like produces like.

In 1883 several heads of wheat were selected as the best heads from several superior plants. Two of these heads were composed of eighteen

large to give an equal quantity of weight.

In the fall of 1885 I planted 1000 selected large seed of Clauson wheat and 1000 selected small seed of the same variety. All the conditions excepting quality of seed were as nearly alike as I could secure. In every respect the plants produced from large seeds are superior to those from small, being three times as large, strong and stocky. It is a most striking instance of the power of selection.

My point is this, though not a new one. If our farmers will give more care to the selecting of the best seed they can find in their fields, there will be a decided increase in crop. The longest, though without doubt the best method, is to go into the field just before harvest and select a suitable number of the most desirable heads to be found, or the finest plants obtainable. When the area to be sown is large it is



II.—HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN ENTERING THE CANADIAN COURT.

OUR ILLUSTRATION.
NO. II.

At the opening of the Exhibition, we had our artist by our side, so we had the accompanying illustration made to show the real occurrence as accurately as possible. Originally our exhibit was close to this spot, but it has since been removed, or all visitors would have been able to locate the spot where our Queen first greeted Canadian exhibitors and representatives. A tumultuous applause burst forth upon her entrance into the Canadian Court, in which we joyously and cordially took part. Her Majesty gracefully bowed acknowledgments for the right royal reception which she received.

Hog Cholera is raging in Illinois.
 We cannot have better farming without adopting a more intensive system.

breasts each. The best heads produced from this seeding contained twenty-two breasts. The grains from these heads were planted in 1884, and the best heads produced twenty-five breasts. The selection gave a pronounced improvement from the beginning up to the last observation obtainable. The grains were noticeably larger, the heads long, compact and full, and the plants stout and strikingly stooled.

In 1885 I selected from hullless oats a number of the smaller, inferior seeds, and a quantity of large, strong ones. Not only were the plants from the seeding made strikingly different in vigor, but at the end of the season there was a noticeable difference in the weight of the progeny of the two kinds of seed, 10,000 of the small weighing over an ounce less than any equal number of the large; or taking forty bushels as a yield for an acre, it would require 10,664,000 more grains of small seed than of

advisable to set aside that portion of the field presenting the best appearance, all things considered, and have this threshed separately from the rest, and then grade this out and use only the best seed for planting. The latter method is not at all impracticable. When we consider that our wheat fields only average but slightly over eleven bushels per acre, while those of England average over twenty-eight, we ought to seek a reason for this deficiency and aim to improve by using such remedies as come within our power. Plenty of good manure, laid on thick, is the one great aid to success in the growing of crops, and coupled with strong, excellent seed, these two form a team, the real strength of which but few farmers, I regret to say, appreciate. Wet straw makes poor manure, and mouldy corn and heated wheat serve as poor seed. There is no danger of aiming too high in securing the best development from seed to fruit. The real danger comes from persistent low aiming.