

**Editorial Correspondence.**

**DEAR ADVOCATE.**

During my journey thus far across the coast I have jotted down a few notes which will doubtless be persuasive with interest.

Farm operations between this and Newcastle have been crowned with more than ordinary success, the grain and root crops turning out finely, which is a cause for deep gratification in all-wise Providence. Is it not passing strange that so many of our farmers in the North neglect the farms to pursue other avocations where more risk is involved, only to resume their agricultural pursuits heavily involved in debt, after many attempts to propitiate Dame Fortune? One great error into which too many of our agriculturalists fall is that of engaging in lumbering to the neglect of their farms, and the fatal mistake repeated again and again, notwithstanding the many failures that have attended the efforts of others, who stand forth as beacon lights to warn them from the path of danger. I know of no pursuit so thoroughly independent as that of tillage the soil, and it is a pleasing task to note the gratifying success which has attended the efforts of those who have given their special attention to agriculture.

There are many splendid farms in the North, which evidence the great care taken in their general management, and whose owners can tread the soil with minds undisturbed by visions of mortgages or any such encumbrances that bind men with bonds almost as galling as the fetters of Newgate; while on the other hand how many of our farmers, in their greed to reach a position of affluence, have, in part at least abandoned the soil in reality a mine of wealth, and throw their energies into lumbering pursuits, only to awake in a few years to the realization that they had carelessly cast away the substance to grasp the shadow. May we not hope that the lessons of the past shall have a beneficial influence in moulding our opinions on the agricultural question, and be an incentive to our farmers to give their undivided attention to a industry which does not associate with it that risk which is connected with many other pursuits. But I am digressing.

One of the curiosities at Oak Point (though which place I passed on Wednesday) is Mr. Alex. McKinnon's garden, in which are several apple trees of various varieties, so richly laden that the boughs are breaking under the burden. I have never seen, even in those countries where fruit ripens

Another curiosity seen in the same section is a twin-egg, the product of a prolific hen. It consists of two well-formed eggs, united at the smaller end by a soft round substance resembling a pipe stem. Had the owner of this strange freak of Nature not been so anxious to preserve the specimens for spirits, a pair of twin chickens might now have been on exhibition by Dr. Dancello or some other enterprising showman, perhaps even by the great Barnum himself.

The terrific storm on Sunday night and Monday morning was attended with unfortunate results in this locality. Some four or five weeks ago

large quantity of lumber, 14 rafts left the Tabusintac Boom for Bagnibogwe, where it was to have been delivered to the owners or parties who had been furnishing supplies. The principal portion of this lumber was owned by Mr. John McKenzie, Tabusintac, an industrious and honest man, and was the result of two seasons' operations. Mr. Angus Russell, Point aux Car, and Mr. John Gilliland, Napan, had also an interest in the portion of the lumber. The rafts left for the Boom in charge of Mr. A. J. W. McKenzie (a son of the principal owner) towed by six or seven teams of horses and after a tedious trip, arrived at Oak Point beach on Saturday evening, 25th Sept., where arrangements were made for remaining until Monday.

The prevailing wind on Sunday was from the S.W., changing to the S. by evening. The men were in charge, consisting of Kenzie, Russell, Gillis, and several others, were afraid that the raft, which were very close to the beach, would be driven ashore if the wind increased. The men, therefore, secured the raft by means of pickets, which is considered sufficient in ordinary weather. About 6 o'clock, on Monday morning, in the midst of an Egyptian darkness a terrible storm arose. An unexpected blowing almost directly from the north. The men rapidly secured a stout line to a tree on shore, but before other lines could be secured, the strong rope snapped like a pipe stem, and the raft was driven ashore. The men, however, the men having considered the possibility of reaching the shore, losing the camp equipment, cooking utensils, at

a lumber wagon, all of which were carried away. The rafts were broken up and about the islands for the month of the summer. The efforts may be made to recover some of the lumber, the work will cost great expense and be attended with much risk. Roughly estimated at \$1.00 per thousand feet, the scattered logs and lumber are worth \$100,000 thousand dollars. The loss will be heavily on all concerned, but more especially on those parties who have been supplying the operators. I have heard the name of an enterprising man who has been working much closer to the extent of about \$300,000. Your correspondent sincerely hopes that his loss may not be as heavy as reported.

When the Gale broke out, the steamer *Waukegan* was within 10 miles of Point and Black Brook, between two several rafts which she was taking

from Amnicate Messing, Guy, Stewart & Co.'s mill at Plack Brook. The value decreased her low by about 800 lives, furnishing about 250,000 and valued at say eight or nine hundred dollars. These logs are, it is supposed, scattered along Portage land, and can be recovered at less expense than those which have found resting places further down river. With regard to the first mention of loss, the general opinion is expressed that the tow was entirely too large for this season of the year. The risk incurred was too great in bringing it to Bathingine in so primitive a manner.