

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. T. Selborne, requests attended to.
 J. M. Bradford, 5th December received.
 T. T. Burford, received. It is impossible to depart from the rule we have laid down, with respect to Local Agents. If we recd. unpaid subscribers from them, we should soon have an edition that would cost £30 or £40 every issue, which we must pay down, and our money would be in the hands of persons whom we do not know, and who may or may not be responsible.
 G. B., Montreal, received, postage being 2s. 3d.
 W. A. S., December 4th and 14th received.
 D. R., Markham, parties you mention are well. Young pork 12s 6d to 15s per cwt. should not be very fat, other matters will be explained hereafter.
 J. B. S. Preston, your name is on our list and we know of no reason why the papers should have missed. The Nos. you mention will be sent.

CANADA FARMER.

December 18, 1847.

CLOSE OF THE VOLUME.

This No. ends Vol. I of the CANADA FARMER. We have at considerable labour made out an Index to the AGRICULTURAL, CIVIL AND SOCIAL, AND LITERARY Departments, and also to the principle subjects on the page devoted to Scientific and Miscellaneous matters. Perhaps about 600 subscribers have taken the Farmer from its commencement and to such of these as have preserved each No the index will be invaluable. Those who have subscribed within the last two or three months will not of course have occasion for it, but as we intend to send to all those who began with No. 22 the whole of the next Volume for their subscription, and to those who began earlier and who will, when their year expires, pay their subscription for Vol. 3, we will send Vol. 2 and Vol. 3 complete for \$2. They will thus have got a part of Vol. 1 into the bargain. We hope this will satisfy those who would otherwise have reason to complain for the deficiency of reading matter in this number.

The Index has given us more trouble than the preparation of twice the usual quantity of matter required for the paper. We have not included the News department in the index, because of the transient and heterogeneous character of its contents, and because the whole of this number would have been taken up with it.

Those who have only received a few numbers of the Farmer, will see by looking over the index, the variety, extent and value of its contents, compared with the usual matter to be found in Newspapers at three and four times the cost. The next Volume will contain more matter than the present, and we think we can promise, that it will be still more valuable. We hope all those who have taken the first Volume, will send forward their subscriptions without delay for the next.

A few persons have not yet sent us their subscriptions for the present Volume, although they promised to do so long ago, and have been receiving what has cost us much time and money. We trust it will not be necessary to remind them again.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CANADA FARMER, AND BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

We make the announcement of the above to our subscribers and readers in this number, in order that they may not be taken by surprise, when the first number for the year 1848, reaches them. We have nearly completed the arrangement with the Proprietors of the Cultivator, and when we have explained our reasons and our intentions, we think very few of our supporters will be disposed to find fault, or hesitate to acknowledge that the step is the best we could take.

In the first place, there is hardly a field for two papers of the same character, and furnish-

ed at so low a price as the two in question.—When we started the Farmer, we made our calculations based upon those of our printer, that with a circulation of 2000, and at 7s. 6d. per copy, we could allow a good percentage to Agents, and pay all expenses. The profits on whatever subscribers we could get above that number would go towards paying us for our time. We published our prospectus and issued our first number. Sent out two or three parties as agents, who appointed about forty local agents. We continued for six months to send a copy of the paper to those agents, and urging upon them to make some exertion in our behalf. We received from them altogether, about ten or twelve subscribers! One of them, a Dr. by the way, sent four names, but the money has not come yet. We found this system would not answer. We should be obliged to give up the paper at the end of the year, and each of the proprietors console himself as he best could for the loss of £100, besides a good share of his time during the year, which in this country is money. Another tack was made. Most of those persons who sent their subscriptions on their own accounts enclosed one dollar only "trusting" as some of them said, that that would pay for the paper, and if not, to send it as long as that sum would pay for. The Cultivator being as it were in opposition, and having the field governed us both in our price and in the allowance to agents. His price was one dollar, and although we published twice as often, it was expected that ours should be sent for a dollar also. He divided the price instead of the profits with his travelling agents: we must do the same or they would not travel for the Farmer.—We were therefore obliged to come down in our price, and go up in our expenses. The agents we sent into the field under the new arrangements have had very good success. our list has reached nearly 2,000 and would probably before the issue of the January No. go somewhat above that. But we must at the reduced price, get a circulation of at least 5,000 to keep us out of difficulty. And the question was, could we obtain that. We felt satisfied that our plan was a better one than the Cultivator's, and that our paper when it became known would be more popular. But the Cultivator began to see the same thing, and notified the public that he would change his plan, that he would not confine his pages to agriculture, that in fact they would embrace a similar order and variety of subjects to the Canada Farmer. He did not use these words but that was evidently the intention. In such a case we would have been placed in direct rivalry—we would both be striving to occupy the same ground. Our agents were already, in some cases taking unfair means to supplant each other, and we came to the conclusion that if we continued our publications under such circumstances, the results would be to our mutual disadvantage, and to the injury of the noble cause of Agriculture to which each of us believed the other to be sincerely devoted.

We came together, and all parties thought it would be to the interest of all, if we united our efforts. We can publish a Journal between the size of the Farmer and the Cultivator, twice a month, and containing more reading matter in the course of the year than either. We can make a better paper than either would have been while the two existed, because there will be more means at our disposal, and a greater amount of talent (if any of us have it) and experience, expended on the New Journal. The principal Editor of the Farmer will have the general editorial supervision of the new journal, and the principal Editor of the Cultivator will, in addition to his assistance in that capacity, have charge of the business department.

The Farmer has seven pages of reading, the new journal will contain twelve. There will be an outside sheet of advertisements, and as the circulation of the consolidated Journal will at once be very large, say 8000, and before the end of the year may reach 20,000,

We invite our friends who have advertisements of a general nature, and wish them to be seen in all parts of the Province, to send them in as soon as possible, we have only a certain space, which when filled cannot be extended.

In the first No. all necessary explanations will be made, and in the mean time we assure the subscribers of the Farmer that they will get a better paper than if we had not made the change; it will embrace all the best features of the Farmer, contain more matter and come just as often. So long as we are connected with it, it shall, at all events, not be less valuable, and whenever the time comes that we shall not be able to keep up its character, we shall inform the public, and our connection with it, from that moment, will cease.

We hope our Local Agents will continue to solicit subscriptions. The terms with them will remain the same as at present for 1848.

TRAVELLING AGENTS will during the holidays communicate with us. We shall be obliged to modify in some respects the arrangements with them for the New Work.

BACK NUMBERS.

We have on hand a few copies of each No. from 1 to 13 inclusive, and also a few of 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22. Any subscriber who has not received any of these Nos., or may require one or more of them to complete his set, we shall be happy to forward them to him, upon receiving a request to that effect, if by letter postage paid.

FLAXSEED—VANNORMAN'S STOVES—BAULKY HORSES, &c.

Norval, Dec. 15th, 1847.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE CANADA FARMER.
 Dear Sirs,

I read with interest, your articles original and selected, on the culture and growth of flax; and as this subject is now before your readers, I will mention something in reference particularly to the production of flaxseed, arising out of a conversation that I had some few weeks ago, with Mr. Bomberger of Dundas; an intelligent old Pennsylvanian German, who has been in this Province many years.

He introduced the subject, by speaking of the large sums, that are annually sent out of the Province, for the purchase of oil for painting, probably to at least £100,000.—He then observed that by a little attention from the farmers, the whole of this sum might be saved to the country, and simply by the adoption of a system practised (where he lived then) with great success in the State of Pennsylvania.

They sowed their wheat fallows in the spring, with flax-seed, very thin, so as to allow the plant room to branch out, that the largest quantity of seed might be produced. He says, the yield was so abundant, as to pay at least all the expense attending the following wheat crop; and this, without reducing the latter in quantity. They cradled the flax when it was ripe, threshed the seed, and burnt the stalks, which was of course, in the shape of ashes, returned to the soil. Will any who read this, try the above experiment, and let us know the result? The only, or chief difficulty, in the way is, that the flax-seed ripens in the time of wheat harvest, and it will require some extra hands to take it off in time.

I will now say something in reference to Vannorman's cooking-stoves. It is quite common in many parts of the country, when asked how they like these stoves, for individuals to say, I don't like them at all, for they wont bake the bottom of the loaf, there is no way for the fire to get under the oven, and we have to turn the loaf upside-down, and the bread is then often only half baked; and consequently spoiled. And it is frequently said in connection with this, that they baked very well when they were new; but after they were sometime in use, they gradually got worse and worse until they would not bake in the bottom at all. And this, (a small blame to them either,) has caused a great deal of complaining, and sometimes scolding too, from the good housewives of our country.

Amongst the various instances of the above, I may mention the following:—I called the other day upon an old acquaintance in Chinguacousy, Mr. F——t. I observed one of the large size Vannorman's in the kitchen, and I asked if it baked well. He said, that in consequence of its baking so badly, he had been under the necessity of building an outside oven. He observed, that his wife was the mother of 18 children, 17 of whom were

living, and it was a serious affair indeed to have the bread spoiled, especially as in addition to his family, they had sometimes as many as ten extra hands—and these of course all brought mouths with them. But, he added, in continuation, that a short time after he had built the oven, he had occasion to take down the pipe from the stove, and he observed that behind the oven, it was choked up with ashes, he then discovered, that there was a plate in the bottom of the oven, that could be lifted, and there he saw that the interval between it and the bottom of the stove, was also full of ashes. He of course cleared them out, and the result was, that the baking was done admirably, and the outside oven was discarded.

In my own house, we had been troubled in the same way, and sometime before this, had found out the remedy, and I asked him about his stove, merely to give him some information if he had needed it. And I now write this, both on account of those who may be inconvenienced in the same way, and also in justice to Mr. Vannorman, that the prejudice against his stoves may be removed: as I am satisfied, that for service, durability, and cheapness, they are at least equal to any in the Province: and his agents ought to be instructed to give the necessary information, in regard to their construction to all who purchase them. For I believe, that from the above cause the sales have been in many places much more limited, than they would have been.

This much on stoves, and now for something else. A few days ago, I was riding in Erasmus, in company with an old friend, and the conversation happening to turn on that greatest of all traveller's or teamster's pests, baulky horses: I observed, that a horse once stopped with me on a hill before a buggy: knowing the "nature of the beast," that the more I would whip him the more he would not pull, excepting backwards; I loosed him from the shafts, to try if he would go up with the harness alone, to the top of the hill; this he also refused: whereupon I cudgelled him severely about the ears, with the butt-end of a leather-covered whip; and then cutting him about the legs, he started and went rapidly to the top; I then brought him back, hitched him to the buggy, and as he had yielded so far as to go up without it, a cut or two of the whip induced him, to go up with it, and I have since tried the same, with similar success.

After this, my friend mentioned an occurrence that took place one time, I believe, in the Niagara District. A horse balked on the road, and the effect of the driver and whip, was just to make him lie down, and he stubbornly resisted every effort to make him rise: when an Irishman coming along, asked if a large cat could be obtained; one was got, and he grasping him firmly by neck and loins, drew him tail-foremost, with his claws upon the back of the horse. This was repeated a few times, until at last, the horse sprang to his feet, and off with his load and lacerated back. And after this, whenever he shewed any symptoms of baulking, his driver had just to mew like a cat, and he was off at once. And in this case, we find that a cat-with-one-tail, effected what a cat-o-nine-tails could not have done.

And now dear sirs, as this is my last correspondence for your first volume,

I remain your obedient servant,
 W. A. STEPHENS.

DOMESTIC ITEMS.

Washing Flannel.—If white, it should be done in as hot water as possible, with hard soap.

Shrinking of Flannel.—Enclose new Flannel in a bag; put it into a boiler with cold water; heat and boil it. It will never shrink any more after the operation, and should then be made up into garments.

Fragments of Bread may all be saved by making them into toast and puddings; and they also make good pancakes, by soaking over night in milk and then adding an egg or two, and a little salt and flour.

Preserves—if fermenting, boil them and add a little powdered saleratus, say size of a pea for a quart or two, but more if much fermented.

Feather Beds should be aired once a week; but do not hang them out of the front windows, unless you wish to add a striking feature in the picturesque expression of your dwelling.

Vials, with medicines, should be kept constantly and very distinctly labelled—it would prevent some fatal accidents.