

Cambridge. Here, the fall within a week has been from \$1 to \$2 per hundred lbs, at Baltimore 50c per hundred lbs, and at Cambridge 25c. At several of the markets, the supply is larger than the demand. Judging from accounts in Western papers, there is no reason justifying the exorbitant rates that have prevailed this spring. The Indianapolis *Sentinel* of the 14th inst., says—"Good cattle are selling in Indiana and Illinois to drovers at \$7.50 to \$8.50 per 100 lbs. nett, \$4.26 live weight." Add only a reasonable amount to defray the cost of transportation East, and the burdens on consumers will be considerably diminished. All over the country, almost, the season has been remarkably fine for grass. The feed has been excellent and abundant, and the hay crop is heavy and good. In this part of the country the number of cattle visible from the railroad is very large, and the calves seem to be raised for the benefit of future beef markets. The longer present prices are kept up, the more certain and greater will be the reaction.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

PREMIUMS FOR FARMS AND GARDENS IN THE COUNTY OF RUSSELL.

We have received the following communications from C. P. Treadwell, Esq., President of the Provincial Agricultural Association, on the subject of premiums for the best cultivated Farms and Gardens in the County of Russell. The Board of Agriculture, at its recent meeting, expressed its approval of the plan, and it is much to be desired that a similar movement should be made either by Societies or influential and patriotic individuals in each of our settled Counties. The encouragement of the cultivation of the various kinds of garden crops is of no small importance, and would tend in connection with the culture of flowers to improve the taste and increase the comforts of many a household. We trust that, as the object is a good one, and most creditable to the projector, it will not be lost sight of in other quarters, but that many will be induced through the force of this example to go and do likewise.

Mr. Treadwell proposes to give the sum of £25 for the purpose, viz.,—£5 to each of the four Township Societies of the County for the best cultivated farm in each locality; and likewise, £5 for the best managed garden within the jurisdiction of each of the four Societies. As the great object of these premiums is the encouragement of farmers and their families in those important arts on which the existence and happiness of nations so essentially depend, we again express our best wishes for the success of the principle in this particular application.—*Toronto Paper.*

L'Original, April 13, 1854.

DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in enclosing for insertion in the *Agriculture*

a letter recently received from the Rev. Andrew Bell, a scientific and practical gardener, to whom I mentioned the circumstance of my offering premiums on farms and gardens in our county.

His opinion should be adopted in preference to mine, as I neither claim practical nor theoretical knowledge; but I feel an anxious desire to advance that branch of domestic economy throughout the Province, and especially in our own county.

I am, my dear Sir,

Your most obt. servt.,

C. P. TREADWELL.

Geo. Buckland, Esq.,
&c., &c.,
Toronto.

L'Original, April 13, 1854.

MY DEAR MR. TREADWELL.—When you called on me to-day, you mentioned a proposal which had been made to offer premiums for the best gardens in Townships or Counties, and wished me to give you some suggestions, in writing, as to the conditions on which those prizes should be awarded. Having my mind occupied and perplexed about some other matters, I really cannot give the matter that consideration I could wish. I shall try, however, to throw out two or three hints.

I think the quantity of land you propose as a minimum in order to get a prize—being nearly half an acre—is entirely too much. Very few families in the whole country, even amongst the wealthy, have that amount enclosed and under cultivation as a garden; and, moreover, no family could do such an amount of land that justice, and give it that high cultivation, which a garden requires, except among the wealthy, who are able to keep professional gardeners, and if I understand you aright, that is not exactly the class you wish to encourage and induce to cultivate gardens. I think that about the fifth of an acre, two square chains would be enough; and further, I think this might be left indefinite. It might very safely be included under the head shortly to be mentioned.

If I mistake not, you also spoke of the greater variety of crops, as another condition. I scarcely think that would answer the end in view. It might be no difficult matter to procure such a variety of seeds and roots that a garden might present a most wonderful display in this respect; a *little* of this and a *little* of that, to the extent of a hundred or more varieties, but I am afraid that the comfort of a family would be *very little* promoted thereby. The great thing that ought to be aimed at, in my estimation, is, to encourage every family in the land to cultivate a garden of *such extent as may be managed by themselves*, or with as little hired labour as possible merely for the rougher and more laborious operations,—a *useful* and *tasteful* garden, one that would yield both *profit* and *pleasure* to a family, instead of being a piece of expensive and useless

ostentation. To come up to my idea of the thing, the garden should contain *such kinds of vegetables—in such quantity—in such variety*, and of such *excellence and perfection*, and accompanied by *such taste*, in the laying out and the ornamentation of it with flowers, as would not only contribute to the *support of a family*, but, all things considered, would, in the estimation of the judges, as sensible and discreet men, minister the most to the health, the comfort, the enjoyment and the pleasure of a family all the year round.

Another ground of awarding the prize might be the superior excellence of the garden produce of whatever kind—large, healthy, thriving, &c., &c.; as indicating the best cultivation, and giving promise of the largest amount of produce for the least extent of ground.

Other grounds might be the care bestowed on the garden, the order and neatness in which it was kept, its entire freedom from weeds, &c., &c.

And last but not least the *taste* displayed in laying out a garden, arranging the crops and ornamenting the garden with flowers. To bring the whole to a point: I would advise leaving out the extent of the garden. That I think might be safely included among the "*All things considered*" which must still be left to the discretion of the judges.

The prize might go to the garden which—I. Contained such *kind of vegetables in such quantity*—and in such *variety*; and of such *excellence* as would minister the most towards the *support, the wealth*, the comfort, the *enjoyment* and the pleasure of a family all the *year round*, and which, II. Contained the *best crops* of their kind, and III. Showed the *greatest freedom from weeds*, the greatest care and neatness,—and IV. displayed the greatest amount of *good taste* in laying out and the ornamenting of it with flowers.

I hold that the cultivation of a pure, refined, elevated taste in a family circle by the floral decoration of their garden done by themselves, and studied and watched by them, is an element and by no means the smallest one in the usefulness of the garden.

And now having made such suggestions as occur to me at the moment, in regard to what should constitute the best garden, to which a prize is to be awarded, I would make another suggestion, that something more is needed, than offering a trifling prize of a few dollars for the best garden, in order to induce a large number of the people to cultivate such gardens as will conduce substantially to the support, health, comfort, &c., of their families. Their ignorance and their prejudices must be removed in regard to the usefulness of it, and the time, labour, and expence necessary. They must be instructed in short as to how it is to be done, and done to the best advantage.

Offer them a good prize, as large as any that have been offered for other essays, for