



VOL. VI. { WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor. }

LONDON, ONT., JUNE, 1871.

{ \$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid. } No. 6.
{ Office—Dundas St., opp. City Hotel. }

"Be sure you are right, Then Go Ahead."

The above motto we now adopt and add to our two previous headings. Our first is "The Farmer's Advocate," our second is "Persevere and Succeed," and our third is "Be sure you are right, then go ahead." No one can say that we have not been true to our first. We also will take it for granted that you cannot find fault with us for the second. Our new motto is yet more difficult than both the others, but we fearlessly have the audacity to take it.—We do not profess to be perfect in acts or judgment; nothing in this earth is perfect! no man now living can claim to have been always right. In many small details we must acknowledge that we have been in error in our management of our own affairs. But our main principle that we intend to carry, and have for years labored for, is right. The Emporium and the Farmer's Advocate might have apparently gone ahead far faster than they have done had we accepted either the inducements offered to us by the government party or by its opposers. No individual can conceive what we have suffered or what we have undergone to keep this journal true to its name. Had we accepted the proffered aid, we must have been bound to either of the great leading parties: the Conservatives or Reformers. We have preferred taking the medium course, and it is our intention to follow our first heading: "The Farmer's Advocate," unless we are compelled to abandon it.

It has required no very small amount of money and perseverance to maintain our position against the numerous obstructions and hindrances that have been thrown in our way. We feel now that we have the confidence of a sufficient number of independent farmers to enable us to remain, as an agricultural journal should be— independent of political strife, and to devote its pages and interest to the cause of agriculture, and the unbiased interest of the farmers.

We did not approve of all that George Brown did. Still, he has likely done a great service to the country! We did not approve of the acts of the old Board of Agriculture. We believe that Board was benefited (or rather, the country) by

our remarks anent it. We by no means think the Minister of Agriculture has acted for the good of the agriculturist in his attempts to make agriculture a political engine. Neither do we think the Postmaster-General is filling his office with honor or justice to the farmers, or they would not be charged more for their agricultural papers or seeds passing through the post office than for other postal matter. We think the Minister of Agriculture to be quite an inefficient person for the position he holds. First, he knows not as much about agriculture as hundreds of children 10 years old. In fact we never met a farmer who really knew less about it and about its management. He has little to do but merely to sanction his advisers' demands or requests. His advisers are not agriculturists, but strong political office seekers and office holders. It is an old saying, Keep any old lumber for seven years and you will find use for it. We have submitted, farmers have submitted, for more than seven years to an inefficient staff of agricultural managers, and we do not intend patiently to submit any longer. We now say, up-root the old tree or cut it down; why cumberth it the ground? We live in an age of progress, and farmers should progress. The dark ages, we hope, are past.

Local Fairs and the Provincial Exhibition.

This is an important subject to write on. We deem it our duty not to flinch from it. We well know that this subject cannot be touched on without giving offence to some. It ought to be discussed, nevertheless, and everything in connection with the agricultural interests should be clearly placed before the farmers.

We do not profess to be infallible, neither do we wish to be dogmatic. Those who differ from us have the pages of this paper at their service to give expression to their opinions. We will publish free of charge any communication that the originators of the Western Fair, or the directors may sanction. We have a location for an Agricultural Exhibition in this city, unsurpassed in the dominion. We are surrounded by farmers. It is the furthest point west that is likely to attain power and position in Canada. We have the

greatest extent of good land around us,—we are a long distance from any opposing town or city,—and possess every facility for railroad communication to all parts of the continent. These give to London a great and powerful position. The Provincial Exhibition when held here has been the greatest success, in regard to the number of tickets sold.

We are glad to see that Hamilton and Guelph are already likely to have established Annual Fairs of their own, as both have advantages admirably suited for them; the latter being the most advanced in having the best and largest amount of good stock, the other the benefit of communication both by rail and water.

Goderich, Clinton, Stratford, St. Thomas, Chatham, and other western points, have all their peculiar advantages, and we doubt not but they also will be able to hold each their annual fair, which cannot fail to be of immense advantage to them. All striving in friendly rivalry, and thus improving the general stock throughout the whole Dominion, the benefits and advantages shewing themselves as a source of profit to the farmers, and thus enriching the whole country. We wish them all success—as they tend to advance and stir up the energies of the farmers to greater efforts, to compete with, and if possible, to excel one another—thus leaving permanent benefits in their respective localities.

But while advocating the interests of these local fairs, and recommending them as worthy the support of one and all, we cannot lose sight of the greater importance to be attached to the Provincial Fair, which has done so much good, notwithstanding the mismanagement it has been subjected to. Let there be no dissensions among us in regard to it, as it has an influence not confined to any one locality, but extending over the whole of Ontario; and as it has been the parent from whence the minor exhibitions have and will radiate, so let each of them be forward in doing what they can to uphold and strengthen its influence and power, for the benefit of agriculture and that alone. Let all political feeling or interest be removed from its management in every detail; let us have it under agricultural control, the interests of which it has done much to advance

and is calculated to do a great deal more if left untrammelled and free of all political bias. Farmers, we say however much it is your duty to support your local fairs, it is no less your duty and privilege to strengthen the hands of those under whose care and control the Provincial Exhibition is placed, when they are striving to maintain an independent position, in asserting the rights of agriculture, and not finching in their duty to keep themselves and yours free from those who for their own selfish and party politics would have their places filled by sycophants of their own, who would sacrifice your interests to advance those of their unprincipled patrons.

Canada Thistles.

To the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture.

We have for several years past called your attention to various useful and beneficial plans (at least the farmers of the Dominion have pronounced them such). We again have another subject to which we would call your attention. You are supposed to know that the Canada thistle is causing a loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and is rapidly increasing. You also should know that the present existing law regarding that pest, if put into force, would cause thousands of our farmers to leave the country, because they could not in ten years raise from their farms half enough to cover the expenses that the enforcement of the Act would cause them if it was put into operation for six weeks.

There exists in Canada an agriculturist of far greater research, perseverance, study, and practice than we were aware of. He has experimented for years in various modes of cultivation, and devoted much application to the eradication of the Canada thistle among other researches. He is well known in the township in which he lives as a most intelligent, honorable and reliable person. He has discovered a mode of treatment which will effectually kill this obnoxious weed, and this at less than one quarter the cost of any mode yet known, and in an incredible short space of time. The gentleman not being overburdened with this world's goods thinks he should be entitled to a patent. He is