

prk at the least expense of time and food, he most willingly and cordially acknowledged their indebtedness to English breeders, among whom he was most happy to find himself that day, and many of whose names were known all the way from France to Australia, as well as on the banks of the Hudson river where he lived, and the still more distant and almost boundless prairies of the Western States. He might conclude by expressing the pleasure with which he had observed that Mr. Cobden—who had just returned from a journey in America, and whom he had the pleasure of meeting there last spring—in his first speech after landing at Liverpool gave the fullest assurances derived from his own personal observation and knowledge, that the people of America still looked back to England—although perhaps as a grown-up and somewhat wayward boy might look back to the home of his fathers—with the deepest sympathy in all the progress she could make, with the utmost confidence in the good will of her inhabitants, and with the proudest anticipations for her future no less than for their own.

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## Correspondence.

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### REMARKS ON MR. CAIRD'S PAMPHLET :

ENTITLED "PRAIRIE FARMING IN AMERICA, WITH NOTES BY THE WAY, ON CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES."—NEW YORK EDITION, 1859.

MR. EDITOR—

Goethe has said, "It is not by attacks on the false, but by the calm exposition of the true, that good is to be done." Taking the above as an excellent rule of action, I have given Mr. Caird's Pamphlet, entitled "Prairie Farming in America," a very attentive perusal, and I think Mr. Caird deserves much credit for the candid way in which he has treated the subject of the British settlers' prospects in Illinois, in very many points of vital importance. The inferences, however, which may be fairly drawn from the facts and figures he has given us, are in many instances, calculated to produce a widely different result from that which he appears to have anticipated, and no doubt expects his readers to arrive at. Without dwelling upon the report that Mr. Caird is personally and largely interested in the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and their lands, I proceed to examine the merits of his pamphlet.

The prevalence of ague to which Mr. Caird has alluded in pages 11, 12, 28, 29, 40, 59, 64, 75, 95 and 96, New York edition, especially in pages 95 and 96, where he gives the experience of a leading physician of twenty years practice, cannot fail to be very appalling to intending emigrants who carefully peruse his work, especially as this physician plainly states that in his opinion "old people ought not to come (to Illinois) at all, as the ague is very fatal to them," and adds by way of solace, that, "Chicago (being an older settlement) was now almost free from ague, that typhus had taken its place in a greatly modified extent, and that pneumonia and rheumatism were the only other diseases that were severe." Candid and explicit as these warnings are, it may be fairly added, that the very great prevalence of ague and the total prostration with which it is accompanied, often extending even weeks and months together on these prairie lands is not sufficiently portrayed. It not unfrequently happens that whole families are so prostrated, that it is with difficulty any one member of it can be found able to alleviate the sufferings of the rest, and in remote situations it is often extremely difficult to procure aid from other families. The effects of this prostration are often very seriously felt in the delay and even non-performance of the necessary farm-work, the neglect of cattle, and often the partial loss of a season's crops. For this reason, if farmers are determined to settle on prairie land they should make arrangements for three or four or more families, to settle together, and, in charity, Mr. Caird should have suggested this; but it is my purpose to show that settlers in the bush of Canada have much better prospects in every way than in the prairies of Illinois, not only as regards the comparative freedom from ague, but for acquiring actual prosperity and speedy independence. In endeavoring to show this I will take Mr. Caird's own representations as the basis; although very great errors have crept into his work, seriously affecting the general character of Canadian soils and Canadian farming. The quotations of a few passages will serve to show how hurried must have been his ride through the country, how very erroneous the ideas