

rioration, to which it is high time an effectual check were applied. In various parts of this Province, the complaint is made that it no longer pays to grow wheat, and many regard the land as poverty-stricken from some occult cause only to be sought in the realms of meteorology and climatology. But the solution is nearer home and far simpler. The land has been taxed until its resources have failed. The nature of the evil suggests the true remedy. Manure, as afforded by animals, is the great source of continued fertility, and the best means of thorough renovation. Its production depends upon the rearing, keeping and feeding of live stock, whereby we are enabled to give back to the soil in the state of plant food, a large proportion of what is taken from it by the processes of vegetation. Nor need the farmer's gains be even temporarily diminished by a resort to the more roundabout method of raising live products for the uses of the dairy and meat market. In the long run, heavier growths and larger profits will reward a policy, which if somewhat slow has the grand merit of being sure. By alternating forage and root crops with crops of grain, a large number of sheep and cattle can be kept, and their droppings applied to the land. It is thus that British agriculture has of late years achieved its remarkable results. Not only by the cultivation of forage and root crops, but by the outlay of almost fabulous sums upon oil-cake and other purchasable articles of food, do the more advanced agriculturists of Britain maintain their astonishing averages of wheat per acre, and still keep their land in vigorous heart. One of their number, Mr. Alderman Mechi, lets out the secrets of successful farming by saying, "My farm is overflowing with plenty, and promises a grateful return to drainage, deep tillage, plenty of manure and irrigation." Canadians must imitate such examples, or it will be impossible to maintain that place in the front rank of agricultural countries, which has been assigned us by nature, and can only be forfeited by our culpable neglect of the appliances a bountiful Providence has put into our hands.

To keep this important matter prominently before the farmers of Canada, will be one of the prime objects for which this journal will zealously and constantly labor.
—*Canada Farmer.*

Try experiments sparingly, but liberally
withal.

FARMERS, WRITE!

THIS is the motto of a very racy letter by Mr. W. O. Buell, of Perth, which appears in the last number of the *Canadian Agriculturist of Upper Canada*. Mr. Buell is justly indignant that the farmers of Canada "will not write to each other through the journal." He suggests various methods of stirring them up, e.g., competition, by the Board of Agriculture offering premiums for short essays on various subjects. Or, if this will not do, he proposes to stir up our Stones, Snells, Nimmos, Millers, and others," by exciting their combativeness. "Drop the great meed of praise showered upon them,—put in a little criticism—assail the Durhams, pitch into the Galloways,—tell them their Leicesters and Cotswolds, or their Durhams and Ayrshires are too fat or too lean, over-fed or too high priced. Do something to set them in motion with their pens." Another plan suggested is, provoking a spirit of emulation. Mr. Buell speaks of a visit eastward by one of the Editors of the *Agriculturist*, and of his published notes of the trip,—notes, which though "scattered and hurried, were interesting to read." Such notes, and short pertinent letters from observing men in various localities, setting forth the experiences and doings of intelligent farmers, would lead others to emulate them.—*Id.*

MODEL FARMS.

F"Friend of Canada and a Gloucestershire Land owner," in a letter on Canadian Agriculture, makes a number of judicious suggestions in reference to the establishment of Model Farms. The writer has had the opportunity of observing for twenty years the effect of such a farm in his own country. He says: "It has extended its influence far and wide, and led to other establishments and institutions, for the improvement of agriculture, among the rest, an agricultural college for training the sons of gentlemen, and giving them scientific and practical knowledge of farm matters. But the most truly useful for the benefit of practical farmers, has been the Model Farm, the establishment of which requires a larger capital to undertake and carry out, to give it full efficiency and a fair trial, than fall to the share of Canadian farmers in general, who might gladly avail themselves of its advantages when established. My neighbors, who used to think twenty and twenty-five bush-