

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE —AND— HOME MAGAZINE.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Our engravings, "The Offer" and "The Accepted," by Thos. Faed, R. A., and the colored lithograph, "Life's Voyage," have been described in our Dec. No., 1876; Jan., 1877, and April, 1878, respectively, and after a most careful examination of hundreds of valuable engravings, we have not been able to find any more pleasing or suitable. They are without doubt unrivalled premiums.

In April No., "Homeward, or The Curfew," by Joseph Johns, was described, and a cut but faintly suggested the merit and beauty of the large engraving, 22 x 28 inches in size, now offered; and in this issue a small wood-cut of the chromo, "Balmoral Castle," is given. This engraving, 24 x 30 inches in size, is of elegant finish and design. The last two mentioned were published at Two Dollars each under copyright.

"Lorne and Louise" was fully described in our Dec. No., 1879, and but a few copies remain in our hands.

OUR RULES.

The name sent in must be a new one and the subscription for one year (\$1.00) must be enclosed.

The prize is for the old subscriber who sends in the new name, and not to the new subscriber.
Choose your prize when remitting, otherwise a choice may be made for you.

To any subscriber, to any member of a subscriber's family (boys and girls), to all postmasters and school teachers, who send in new subscribers, these prizes will be mailed, postage paid.

On the Wing.

As our feathered tribe just begin to arrive, we seem to desire a flight also, and take the cars of the L. H. & B. R. R. and proceed northward. At Exeter Mr. H. Snell, the Huron stockman, stepped on the cars; he had been to judge the stock at the Exeter Spring Show. This show did not amount to much, five heavy draft stallions being the principal exhibit. Spring shows seldom draw much attention. Mr. Snell has now engaged Mr. J. Johnston, that well known herdsman who formerly had charge of Mr. John Snell's sons' herd when their name figured conspicuously in the prize lists, and their stock was admired by all at our exhibitions. We expect our Huron Snell will soon have animals that will astonish the natives.

At Clinton we met Cyrus Andrews and others. Mr. Andrews we have previously introduced to our readers as the oldest settler we have met; he is now hearty and stronger apparently than many half his age; and is full of life and energy, despite his having been the only man we have met that lived on browse or twigs, as he did in the spring of the year 1805. The old gent was the first to introduce the raising of sorghum into Huron, and has compiled a neat little book on amber sugar cane, its origin, culture, &c.

MANITOBA.

In the conversation Mr. A. said: "I want you to tell your readers in Manitoba to be sure and not wheat their land too much; I have been to the western and northern States several times, and I was so much pleased with the fine crops growing in Illinois that I was almost tempted to settle there, as I had friends there and many spoke of the great crops and the inexhaustible fertility of the land; but the results are now that not one farmer in fifty in that locality raises a bushel of wheat. They run the land out from 30 to 20, then 10, then 5 bushels per acre, so they now depend on corn and hogs. We shall not be able to raise corn in our country, therefore let them look out in time, and if we manage right we shall have yet a better country than they have in the States, even if we can't grow cotton and oranges." We promised we would give his views about it, and we feel satisfied that he is about right.

OUR WINTER WHEAT.

The wheat within about 50 miles of Lake Erie appears rather better than that further north; it appears to have rather more life in it. It had not made a large growth before the winter set in. Some fields appear to have quite sufficient blade to make a good crop, but there are many fields that are looking very bad: some having very large black spots. Although many of these fields look so bad now, there is such a wonderful vitality about fall wheat that if only a small blade is seen here and there, it tillers or stools out so as to make a good crop. We have often been agreeably surprised to see how astonishingly a fall wheat field

has recovered itself, and equally astonished to see many a fine, promising looking field of spring wheat not worth cutting at harvest time.

GODERICH.

April 22.—Here Lake Huron is covered with a sheet of ice as far as the eye can see. We are informed that the ice only extends six miles from shore, and that it only requires an east wind and it would all be blown into the lake in a few hours. It is now so rotten that it would soon break up and be of no hindrance to navigation, but the continued westerly winds have kept it as yet on this shore.

SALT.

This is, or ought to be, the great salt market of Canada, having the best port for shipping. The great salt beds lie below the surface, and extend some 40 miles south. We need be under no apprehension of any lack of salt, for the rock beds vary in thickness from a few feet to over 100 feet. The depth at which the salt beds lie is rather over 1,000 feet below the surface. The salt is dissolved in the bed or rock by letting water into it; the water or brine is then pumped up, and the water evaporated by means of large heating pans, and the salt is being continually raked from the bottom of the boiling pans by means of large, long-handled wooden hoes. There are numerous salt works in operation in this place, but from what we could ascertain, by far the most important to this Dominion is

THE NORTH AMERICAN CO.'S CHEMICAL SALT WORKS.

These works are owned by a company of which the principal proprietors live in Montreal. Mr. G. Rice, a chemist of Montreal, P. Q., and Managing Director of this Company, has for over ten years been practicing and testing salt, and trying to perfect a process to cleanse it; and the success he has attained was perfectly astonishing to us. We were shown a large pool of lightish colored mud; this dirty slush occupied a space of about twenty feet in diameter and was about five inches deep, and had just been emptied out before we arrived. All this filth had been taken out of about 500 barrels of salt; this refuse consisted of lime, salts and magnesia. It had a bitterish taste on being placed on the tongue. Now the filth contained in the salt in general use is about 2½ per cent; the impurities from the salt produced at these works are extracted in the following manner: A chemical change is produced on the brine in the tanks before boiling; then after the salt is made it is all cleansed, and the nasty bitter sediment that we saw is the result of this cleansing. Not only is this purifying done here, but the best machinery for drying the salt is also found here, being the inventions or plans of the chemist in other salt drying and grinding establishments.

The salt is poured into a revolving boiler or long iron tube, like the smoke-stack of a steamer;