

small in comparison with the united strength of the larger corporations, that we fear their interests are in jeopardy. We regret that there is such a strong feeling of reticence and avoidance of open discussion among some officials, whose duty should be to encourage rather than suppress discussion.

Toronto and London will add to their exchequers. The Provincial and Dominion Exhibitions will show very large deficits, despite the two large grants received from the Dominion and Provincial Governments; and it is to be regretted that they have departed quite as far from the regulations governing the Royal or the Model agricultural exhibition, as either of the other two fairs have done. In fact, the exhibitions of London and Toronto are called fairs; a fair admits all kinds of attractions. Agricultural exhibitions are now turned to fairs, and to make the whole thing complete, on the Provincial prize lists circulated in Ottawa an attraction page was bound on the volume, and the last attraction advertised under their auspices was a grand dance. On the day before the dance was to take place we saw several drunken people sleeping on the grounds, and one drunken fight, or rather worse. At the annual meeting in Ottawa it was decided to ask for the continuation of the grant; but in talking with individuals we found the names of Chatham, St. Thomas, Belleville, etc., mentioned as being suitable places for the ensuing year. The fact is that the exhibition question was never in such a chaotic state as at the present, and very great caution should be taken, and open and free discussion encouraged before hasty or injurious conclusions are arrived at. We ask those who have suggestions to make to correspond and express their views if they have suggestions for improvement. We have to the present advocated the encouragement of township exhibitions. There are many who oppose this plan. We have also opposed improper and injurious attractions; others differ with us.

What Trees to Plant.

With the object of awakening greater interest in this important industry, we called on Mr. G. Leslie, sen., of Leslieville, near Toronto, as we believe him to be the oldest, most practical, reliable and experienced person in Canada in this line. He has tried all kinds of trees procurable, which are likely to be of advantage in Canada; he has the largest and oldest established plantation grounds for producing and trying all kinds of trees. He now cuts about fifty cords of wood a year from trees planted by himself. We walked over the grounds with him, and it was with great pleasure we elicited the following information from him. "This stump," said Mr. Leslie, pointing to the stump of a tree cut off close to the ground, "is nearly three feet across. I planted that tree 32 years ago. I cut it down last year and had it piled up in cordwood; there were two cords from that tree. It was a Silver Lobelia; some call it the Silver Poplar. The wood is soft when green, but when dry is hard and equal to the hard maple for fuel and other purposes." Mr. Leslie says this is the most valuable tree for the Northwest; it will grow anywhere. It should be planted on all waste lands in Ontario. It is easily propagated from cuttings. We saw several trees nearly as

large as the one described, that he had planted over thirty years ago. He says this is the tree of all trees for the Northwest. We instructed our artist to make a drawing of this venerable tree; see it on the left side of the engraving on page 297. The tree on the right represents the Ash-leaved Maple. This tree is as hardy as our common maple; it makes a very graceful change for ornamental and useful planting in Ontario and all parts of Canada. We saw this tree thriving, we thought, the best of any in Manitoba, and highly recommend all to procure a few trees of this very valuable and ornamental variety. They are not so much planted as they should be. We have gathered a lot of the seeds of this tree for dissemination; see our prize list. The centre tree in the engraving represents a Norway Maple. Mr. Leslie may be seen below it. This is a rapid growing and very hardy tree. It has a larger leaf than either the hard or soft maple; the leaf is of a dark green color, and the wood grows much denser. This makes it more valuable for a wind break. This is a hardier tree than our common maple, and will also thrive in more northern latitudes than our common maples. It deserves greater attention both for use and ornament. We hope by these means to awaken greater interest in arboriculture, and will speak of other varieties in future issues. Let us all plant more trees. This is the time to plant seeds.

Special Contributors.

A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

The leading thoughts contained in the editorial of last month on pedigrees and pedigree worshippers are of particular interest now when we are hearing so much more about animal pedigrees than about animals themselves. We are governed by style, and the leading fashion now is, as it has been for a year or two, to pay first attention to the pedigree. If a Shorthorn has a fine pedigree and is of a rich, dark red color, who will be so particular as to demand that the animal be full of individual merit, and of a powerful, robust constitution? Of course it would be a statement too sweeping to say that these last but most essential qualities would be ignored in a large measure by the majority of breeders of the present day, but it must be remembered that while many men find a genuine pleasure in breeding and handling stock, and a few now and then can be found who follow the business purely to suit their own fancy, without regard to the pecuniary advantages of raising fine stock—while this be true, it must be remembered that after all said and done about men supporting certain breeds and certain strains, etc., simply because they regard them as the best extant, and therefore the only ones worthy to be perpetuated, at least ninety-nine men out of every hundred who engage in stock raising or any other pursuit, do it for the sake of the money there is in it, and each man stands up for the particular kind of stock which he thinks likely to make the most money in the long run. Therefore, as it is the business of breeders to have cattle, hogs, or sheep of the kinds mostly in demand, the pedigree worship and color folly are liable to be carried to an extreme that may be very hurtful to the best interests of our fine stock industry. It is one of the natural laws of trade that when

ever there is a demand there will immediately be forthcoming a supply. Take the case of a thoroughly practical and experienced cattle breeder; he recognizes the fact that a bull which is the very embodiment of sound constitution and high individual merit is better to breed from even if he does not happen to have a royal pedigree, than an animal whose chief qualities lie in the fact that he is the son of an illustrious sire. But why should not this practical man give the people what they want and are willing to pay most for? Is he a philanthropic reformer that he should ignore the popular demand, and teach his customers what they ought to want, or will he not rather make a study of what his customers do want? He is not breeding for principle, but for money, and if you see in his herd a lot of blue blooded pedigree aristocrats, without constitutional vigor, remember that the charge is to be laid at the door of those who think more of the animal's family than of the animal.

Popular fashion is responsible for many sins. It is said that one had as well be out of the world as out of fashion. And, unfortunately, it is seldom the substantial, common sense kind of people who set the fashions. Fine stock breeders, who make a business of breeding to sell to the public, must be expected to pander to the popular whims, no matter how absurd, for the reasons stated above. Like the evils of adulteration, artificial butter, etc., one must not go to the manufacturers and say: You ought not to manufacture an article that is not what it pretends to be. It is useless to appeal to him; the consumer must be reached and his perverted taste corrected. You must always go to the fountain-head to purify a stream.

Pedigrees certainly have their uses, and play a valuable part in the business of breeding, but the craze for certain kinds is very absurd and unreasonable. Let those who lay so much stress upon pedigree examine the history of the celebrated Shorthorn raiser, Col. J. D. Gillette, of Logan County, Illinois. Among his vast herds of prime breeding animals, and champion prize winners in the highest show rings for beef cattle, there will not be found a single recorded pedigree. The imperative rule of this noted Shorthorn raiser is that each animal must have fine individual merit; must carry its pedigree not in a written herd record, but indelibly stamped upon its own individuality.

At the Illinois State Fair the display of general agriculture, and of horses, sheep, swine, and poultry, was very large and fine, but in the cattle departments there was a conspicuous dearth. There was no competition whatever, and the usual battle of the breeds was not fought this year. The reason was that the fine stock interests were fairly by the ears over the report that pleuro-pneumonia had broken out in Illinois. It now seems that this is a blunder of the veterinary authorities as large as the one which they made last spring in declaring that foot-and-mouth disease had broken out in various parts of the West. The fact of the matter is, not a single authority who has taken an active part in the matter has ever seen a case of either disease, and of course blunders are to be expected from men who have no knowledge of these fatal scourges that they have not gained from books. Thus far the reports are confined to Jersey cattle, and for