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AGRICULTURE; LOWER CANADA; THE BOYS AT THE MID-DAY MEAL.

## WALKS AMONG THE FARMERS OF CANADA.

In 1863, in Lower Canada, the bare ground only began to appear in patches, through the deep snow in the middle of April; the arable land being still partly under snow; saturated with water, and too wet to be ploughed at the beginning of May.— In Upper Canada, in the country bordering on Lake Ontario, and up west to the shores of Lake Erie on the travellers' left, and to Lake Huron on his right, and in front of him towards Lake St. Clair, and down again on the Essex shore by Detroit river, the snow has been insufficient all winter for several necessary purposes in the industrial economy of the country. Sleighing was bad, and timber and firewood were not got in suffi-

cient quantities. At Christmas, 1862, the atmosphere was moist and warm, whereupon our men and women of a prophetic persuasion shook the head, and told that 'A green yule makes a fair churchyard.'

Through January, February and March, 1863, the western half of Upper Canada had more days of rain than of snow, which was bad for the wheat sown in the fall.— About the second week in April the weather though cold and windy, was generally dry. In the week ending 18th April, the upper districts of Lake Ontario were visited by a phenomena which the oldest inhabitants, the Indians, did not remember; soft winds from the north, so warm as to be almost stifling. Again the prophetic spoke. 'This will be a sickly summer.' At the same time there came flocks of pigeons from the South, in

flying armies of hundreds of thousands, forming triangular clouds, the birds changing position, but preserving the form of their quivering columns. Many millions passed over Burlington Bay, flying north-west, on the 18th of April, and Willie Shaw, at the Station Hotel, having in vain tried to count the 'doo's,' said, 'I dinna ken what it means, but thae doos is a sign o' something.' Some of the skeddaddlers pronounced the flight of pigeons to be a sign of war in the south.

But fine dry weather came with dust on the roads, dust on the city streets, and dried the farm land for ploughing, sowing, and harrowing in the last two weeks of April. Then came May and then was a peck of 'May' dust worth a King's ransom, for it was the spring seed

time. March dust in England, May dust in Canada. But so withering the wind, so rapid was the evaporation of moisture under the hot sun, that people had hardly ceased to murmur at too much wet, when it became necessary to grumble at the want of rain. The 3d and 4th of May brought up from the east cold winds that reached into every house, and through the clothes of every person indoors or out of doors, as if searching for old men with rheumatism and women with tic doloureux; and when the man or woman, or poor little child was found who had rheumatism, tic doloureux, toothache, or teething, the bones and the nerves were bitten by that bitter cold wind from the east. 'We will have no grass, the hay will be as scarce this year as it was last year,' that was the text of the rural complaint, in