

Old Letters.

(By a Regular Contributor.)

AGRICULTURE.—Without any preface I will, this week, reproduce another of Mr. William Evans' letters. This is the second one written concerning agriculture in Canada, and is of considerable importance. His grand idea would seem to have been to educate those engaged in agriculture, to raise farming to the level of a profession, and to fill the farmer with a lofty idea of his own importance in society and of that of his occupation. This is the letter:—

Montreal, 12th Nov., 1837.

A Letter to the Public:—

"What are the advantages that are likely to result from the useful, practical, and general education of the agricultural class?" This is a question to which I reply that an improved system of agricultural management would inevitably be introduced, by which it would be possible to augment the produce and returns obtained from the cultivated land and stock in these provinces, to double what they are at present, and in many instances, much more; and I am firmly persuaded that no material improvement will ever be effected in the agriculture of Canada until farmers do become usefully and generally educated.

It is true that agriculture may be practised by imitation, without any knowledge of its theory; but in this case it will generally remain stationary. The mere routine practitioner cannot advance, beyond the limits of his own particular experience, and can never derive instruction from such accidents as are favorable to his object, nor guard against the recurrence of such as are unfavorable. He can have no recourse for unforeseen events, but ordinary expedients; while the educated man of science resorts to general principles, refers events to their true causes, and adopts his measures to meet each case.

Dr. Spurzheim says that those who are versed in history, or understand the law of Christian charity, will join those who contend for the benefit of an instruction adopted for every class of society, and that whoever thinks it right to cultivate the mind, cannot with justice despise that others should remain ignorant.

It is a great mistake to compare the agricultural classes in Canada generally to what are termed the peasantry of other countries, who are mostly persons that have little or no property, more than what they receive for their daily labor, or those who occupy a few acres of land as tenants, paying a high rent for it. On the contrary, the rural population of Canada are proprietors of ample farms, stock, implements, etc. There can be no question of the necessity that exists that persons circumstanced as the latter class should receive a suitable education. They cannot exercise their profession to due advantage without being thus qualified; and the loss to this country that is occasioned by the absence of a judicious system of agriculture, and a consequent scanty produce, is enormous.

To any one acquainted with the real circumstances of the Irish poor it would not be a matter of surprise that those most wretchedly conditioned should be uneducated; but I have known in Ireland, poor men who worked for miserable daily wages, and who could not obtain one pound of butcher's meat for their families in six months, endeavor to pay a few pence monthly for their children at a country school. They felt their own wretched condition, and expected by giving their children education, which they had not themselves the benefit of, that they might be able to make some improvement in their lives. I admit that the children were not much benefited by these schools, because they seldom had properly qualified masters, and no good general system of education established for the country population up to the time I left home. I introduce the circumstance, however, to show that these poor Irish people were willing to deprive themselves of a part of what was necessary to support existence, in order to give education to their children, when they had nothing else to give them. They were incapable of judging whether their children were educated in such a way as to make it useful for them in after life, and hence it happened that in most

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cases the actual benefit was trifling, for the want of proper superintendence and encouragement. In that country, beyond all countries in Europe, the poor population were most egregiously mismanaged, and poverty and suffering to an appalling extent have been the consequence for centuries, and continues up to the present day.

It might be expected that the example of well managed farms, in this country, of which there are several, would be productive of much good. Many causes prevent it. Strong prejudice exists among the farmers against new modes of cultivation and management of stock, and if these will not be readily gotten over until a system of agricultural education is devised.

What may be considered by some to be the most improved system of agricultural management cannot be introduced into Canada unless it can be made profitable. Expenditure of capital and labor in any way that will not give proportionate results must be injurious to the community as well as to the individual who expends it. By practically and usefully educating the farmer he will be enabled to determine for himself the course he ought to adopt in the conduct of every part of his business. In vain is all that has been written and published for the improvement of husbandry, if farmers cannot and will not read. The manners and customs of other countries are unknown to him. They wonder and beauties which abound in the world are of little consequence to a man who cannot make himself acquainted with descriptions that are given of them. The usefulness and enjoyment of those so circumstanced must, indeed, be confined within narrow bounds. It is those who have the good fortune to be educated that will know how education is an essential element of the usefulness of man to those around him, to the world, and to his own enjoyment.

I have now fairly entered on my subject, and will come again shortly with another letter.

WILLIAM EVANS.

CAUSED BY THE HEAT.

A Rash on Baby's Skin that Often Alarms Careful Mothers.

During the summer months a rash often appears on the face, neck and body of babies and small children which is liable to alarm the careful mother. It is due to the excessive heat, and while not dangerous, is the cause of much suffering. Immediate relief is given by dusting the eruption liberally with Baby's Own Powder, which may be had at any druggists, but to cure the trouble a medicine must be given that will cool the blood of the little sufferer. Baby's Own Tablets will be found a positive blessing in such cases, and will soon restore the clearness and beauty of baby's skin. Mrs. Clifton Cuyler, of Kincardine, Ont., says: "My baby had a rash break out on her face and all over her body. I gave her medicine, but the eruption never left her until I gave her Baby's Own Tablets, and after using them a short time the rash entirely disappeared. I have also given her the Tablets for constipation with the best of results; they act gently but promptly, and always made baby quiet and restful. I think the Tablets a splendid medicine for young children." Baby's Own Tablets may be had from all druggists at 25 cents per box, and Baby's Own Powder at the same price. If you prefer to order direct they will be sent post paid on receipt of price by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont.

LEO'S ENCYCLICALS.

Benziger Brothers are about to publish a volume containing the best encyclical letters of Pope Leo XIII. in an English translation. They number thirty. The volume has been compiled and has a preface by Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J.

Household Notes.

Young white onions are very nice cooked in boiling water, sliced and served on buttered toast, like asparagus.

A delicious sweet to serve with a luncheon course is made by dipping oblong crackers in melted sweet chocolate. Place them on a buttered plate until firm and dry.

In cooking green vegetables that are to be served without the liquor, only enough water should be used to keep them from burning, otherwise the soluble nutritive qualities will be wasted.

Brush the bottom crust of pie with white of egg before putting in the fruit, to prevent the juices being absorbed and the crust soggy.

After you have made your rich brown gravy for the roast, and it is just ready to turn into the gravy-boat, add a couple of tablespoonsful of thick, sweet cream. It will lighten the color and, what is more, impart a most delicious flavor.

An old housewife says that the toughest of beef and chicken can be made tender and palatable by putting a spoonful of good cider vinegar in the pot in which it is boiling, or in the juice with which the same are basted when roasting. It does not injure the flavor in the least.

What can be done with jelly that has not hardened? Cover the top of the glasses with panes of window glass and set it in the sun for a few days, bringing it in nights and during showers. It will usually become hard. If it does not, save it for sauces, puddings and fruit cake and be more careful next time.

The Secret of Old Age.

The unfolding of the secret of a happy, useful life, and a green old age, commences in babyhood, and follows on, step by step, along well defined, harmonious lines until it passes through the gateway of death. John Ruskin, in an answer to the question, "When does the education of a child commence?" replied:—"At six months old it can answer smile with smile and impatience with impatience. It can observe, enjoy and suffer acutely, and in a measure intelligently. Do you suppose it makes no difference to it that the order of the house is perfect and quiet, the faces of its father and mother full of peace, their soft voices familiar to the ear, and even those of strangers loving, or that it is tossed from arm to arm among hard or reckless or vain minded persons in the gloom of a vicious crowd or the confusion of a gay one?"

If parents could realize how much of the prosperity, the happiness, the strength of character of the whole future life depends upon the education, mental and physical, in those days of infancy and childhood, when the home and its influence for harmony or discord, for strength or disease, is all powerful, how many human wrecks might be prevented and how much crime diminished! Given a good constitution, or even a weak constitution strengthened and developed by logical thought, in which the mind is taught to reason and act from its own observation of the laws of health, physical and mental, the secret of a long life is easy. Cheerfulness, plenty of work, moderate living and sleep, work and plan-

ty of it, properly directed, do not wear out the brain cells and derange the functions of life anything like as much as the ceaseless worry of an ill regulated life, tossed about upon an uncertain sea without the strength and character of a harmonious mind, cool, calm and self-reliant to guide and direct.

History is full of incidents illustrating the fact that tireless toilers in every department of statesmanship, literature and science, often live the longest and accomplish their greatest work after they have passed the meridian of life and their heads are frosted with age. Many of these octogenarians began life as delicate persons, but worked with a hopeful spirit, and even in their darkest days never looked upon life as a burden, but to be used wisely, with careful thought and ample preparation to overcome every obstacle and every hindrance to the accomplishment of the best possible results. If every young man or woman would take seriously to heart the great truth that it is never work that kills, but only worry, life would be brighter for all. —Medical Times.

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ST. PATRICK'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY.—Meets on the second Sunday of every month in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander St. immediately after Vespers. Committee of Management meets in same hall the first Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. Rev. M. J. McKenna, Rev. President; W. P. Doyle, 1st Vice-President; Jno. P. Gunning, Secretary, 716 St. Antoine street, St. Henri.

ST. ANN'S T. A. & B. SOCIETY. established 1863.—Rev. Director, Rev. Father McPhail; President, D. Aillery, M.P.; Sec., J. F. Quinn, 625 St. Dominique street; M. J. Ryan, treasurer, 18 St. Augustin street. Meets on the second Sunday of every month, in St. Ann's Hall, corner Young and Ottawa streets, at 8.30 p.m.

ST. ANN'S YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY organized 1885.—Meets in its hall, 157 Ottawa street, on the first Sunday of each month, at 2.30 p.m. Spiritual Adviser, Rev. Father Flynn, C.S.S.R.; President, R. J. Byrne; Treasurer, Thomas O'Connell; Rec.-Sec., Robt. J. Hart.

A.O.H. LADIES' AUXILIARY, Division No. 5. Organized Oct. 10th, 1901. Meetings are held in St. Patrick's Hall, 92 St. Alexander, on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m., on the third Thursday at 8 p.m. President, Miss Annie Donovan; vice-president, Mrs. Sarah Allen; recording secretary, Miss Rose Ward, 51 Young street; financial secretary, Miss Emma Doyle, 776 Palace street; treasurer, Mrs. Charlotte Birmingham; chaplain, Rev. Father McGrath.

A.O.H. DIVISION NO. 6 meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 816 St. Lawrence Main street. Officers: W. H. Turner, President; P. McCarl, Vice-President; J. Emmet Quinn, Recording Secretary, 931 St. Denis street; James Scullion, Treasurer; Joseph Turner, Financial Secretary, 1000 St. Denis street.

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NOTES

OPENING DAY.—Next week the city schools will open their scholastic term. The announcements have been made of the churches last week. Others will be made tomorrow. It is not our intention to enter any lengthy remarks concerning the duties of parents on this occasion, we take it for granted they are all aware of their obligations towards their children. We wish to insist very strongly on one point and to give, with circumspection, our reasons for insistence.

Each one of you will know beforehand the day upon which school commences, and you make up your mind to have your child, or your children, there that day. Not the next day, or on the day fixed for the opening, but at the hour that is fixed and at the hour that is fixed are two very important responsibilities. Firstly, it is due to your (boy or girl), and secondly, due to the teacher, the other and the school.