

the mother's breast the healthful or impure stream is drawn which nourishes or vitiates infant life. In the mother's countenance the child has its first study, and every varied form which that countenance assumes excites new feelings or emotions in the infant mind. If it wear a pleasant smile, the first springs of affection will warm the infant heart. If it beams with intelligence, it will inspire the sweetest confidence and veneration. But, if that countenance is mantled with a frown;—if it is an index to the bitterness of resentment which may rankle in the soul, then will the corresponding passions be speedily excited in the pliant heart. We mistake very much by supposing that it is the purpose of education to implant those varied faculties in the mind which it sometimes very successfully promotes. It is not so, they are all there by nature in the mind, of the infant, as in that of the full grown man, waiting to be developed and to receive their proper bent that they may all operate to the glory of their Creator. In the development of these the mother plays the most important part. By her daily and persevering efforts the infant mind is expanded and strengthened, and flows out in earnestness and devotion towards all that is good and noble, pure and ingenuous; and to these intelligent, well-directed efforts, may be traced more of that mental greatness which has adorned mankind, than to any superior natural conformation. Such then is the work which necessarily devolves upon the mother, and if unperformed by her, the deficiency can be but ill-supplied by another. How important then to the interests of Society—to moral and mental greatness, to social comfort, domestic enjoyment, and to the realization of a happy home—that mothers be prepared for so ennobling a duty.—Here then the question suggests itself—How is this unspeakable blessing to be secured? It is evident, that to its thorough attainment it must be begun at the cradle; and here the matter becomes complex and involved, the more closely you examine it, for the one part so reacts upon the other that it is not easy to know at what stage of the process the educator can step in. If the work, to be successful, must begin at the first dawning of the infant mind, the prerogative necessarily rests with the mother; but then, if the mother has not in her earlier years been sufficiently fitted and qualified for her high vocation, how rests the matter. Oh! then there is a blank which no extraneous application can adequately supply. Thus we see that to ensure domestic comfort we must have educated mothers, and to make sure that the mothers are thoroughly trained we must educate the girls. The heart of the girls must be purified from all unhappy and ungenerous emotions;—the understanding cultivated to apprehend wherein lies the chief good;—the mind enlightened so as to discern and eschew the tendency to evil which is incident to human nature,—and so moulded by the pure and healthful moral precepts of christianity, as to be led to pursue virtue for virtue's sake. Not only so, but there must be an abrogation of much that is now mixed up with the prevalent ideas of female education. We must get rid of a great amount of that frippery which is termed accomplishment, so that something having a substantial bearing upon the necessities of life may be substituted in its stead. Although the higher department of intellectual education may safely devolve upon another, yet the first

and most lasting principles of the moral and physical departments belong exclusively to the mother. The superintendence of these is her special sphere, and not only must she impress upon her tender charge that the wayward heart is the seat of the affections; but, that it is the guiding principle in the physical system; that from it is constantly rushing with incredible force that radiant stream which sends energy and sensation to the remotest parts of the human frame,—and that the daily work which takes place in that stream must be daily supplied to the system by healthful nourishment. Here, however, we must for the present pause.

**New Flax Machine for the Provincial Show.**

The following letter to the Editor of the *Canadian Agriculturist*, is of so much public importance that we deem it expedient to give it a place in our columns, as a large portion of our readers are deeply interested in the subject of its contents. Mr. Widder and the Company which he so honorably represents, have hereby given us another proof of the hearty desire to promote the improvement and welfare of the country.

CANADA COMPANY OFFICE,  
Toronto, August, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR.—The last accounts from England inform me, that the Canada Company finding it impossible to come to any terms with the representatives of Donlan for his Flax Machine, have determined to send out a Machine which it is believed is taken from Donlan's plans, but is likely to be very efficient, and it will be sent by next Steamer to Liverpool, and will no doubt reach Toronto in time for the Provincial Exhibition. It will be accompanied with all particulars as to its effects and mode of application—and there appears to be every reason for believing it will be very suitable for the purposes of farmers growing Flax in the Province, and wishing to be able to reduce it to a marketable state on their farms, so as to be a profitable crop. It has cost £36 sterling, and the expenses attending it will make it, when placed here, amount to about \$230.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours, very truly,

FRED. WIDDER.

GEORGE BECKLAND, Esq.

**Early Closing.**

In last issue we expressed our gratification that an arrangement had been made amongst the principal commercial men of the city, to close their places of business at 7 o'clock, P. M., summer and winter. We fancied that this included all week nights, and were not, therefore, prepared to see many of them open up to 10 o'clock on Saturday night. It will perhaps take a little time to effect a thorough change. We would say that of all evenings in the week, Saturday should be left free from harassing cares; when it is a well known fact that if business people are true to themselves they will lose nothing by it. As regards the gain that will be effected by the change we make the following extract from the *Hamilton Canadian* in reference to the same healthful principle adopted there.

"It is satisfactory to see that, with a few solitary exceptions the rational proposal of closing stores and places of business at seven o'clock in the evening, has been adopted by our mercantile community. This is decidedly one of the greatest and most necessary improvements that could be introduced into the business world, and its salutary effects on society at large, will be visible in a very few years. It will, in the first place, be visible in the improved health of a large

class of superior young men who fill the offices of clerks and salesmen; it will be visible in the mental cultivation and the intellectual pursuits of, at least, a portion of these young men, and, above all, it will be visible as the first preliminary step in the coming reformation that will check the progress of that principle of selfish competition that is paralyzing and corroding the best feelings and energies of the human soul, and which if left uncontrolled and fostered as in time past, will in a few years bring civilized mankind under the degrading conviction that to "hammer hardware and weave moulin," to measure tape and keep accounts, is the chief end and object, the highest noblest goal of humanity."

**Seed Fairs.**

The Waterloo County Agricultural Society's half-yearly Seed Fair was held in Guelph on Tuesday last. The attendance was good. Eighteen samples were entered for competition: 9 from Puslinch; 6 from Guelph; 2 from Waterloo, and one from Kramora.—

The premiums were awarded as follows:—  
For the best wheat, Mr. H. Cockburn, Puslinch, (the gift of the Canada Company), £5 0 0  
2nd, Mr. William Whitlaw, Guelph..... 3 0 0  
3rd, Mr. Adam Shaw, Waterloo..... 2 0 0  
4th, James Wright, Esq., Guelph..... 1 0 0

The first, second, and fourth premiums were awarded to the Whitlaw Wheat, and the third was given to the Blue Stem, or Christie Wheat.

The Kora Seed Fair was held on Thursday last, but was not so well attended as was expected. The Horticultural Exhibition came off, however, very successfully. Forty-eight premiums were awarded.

The show of Fall Wheat for the Counties of Middlesex and Elgin, came off on Tuesday, at the City Hotel, London. The samples shown were of the best quality, and it was a difficult matter for the judges to decide which was superior. Prizes were awarded as follows: Daniel Mann, Yarmouth, 1st prize, £2; Joseph Mann, Westminster, 2nd, £1 10s.; John Grant, do., 3rd, £1 10s.

**Literary Notices.**

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

Anthony's Latin and English—English and Latin Dictionary.  
Life and Works of Robert Burns, Vol. III.  
Snow Drop—September. A. H. Armour & Co.  
Meyer's Universum, Part V.

**Arts and Manufactures.**

**EFFECTS OF THUNDER.**

Are the telegraphic wires likely to be more affected than rivers or canals in causing the absence of thunder storms? I answer most certainly, yes; for iron and copper wires are much better conductors than air, water, &c.; since the telegraphic wires exceed in length, by some hundreds of miles, all the canals and rivers in England put together, it follows that if rivers and canals were conductors of the electric fluid, by how much more is that fluid drawn off from the atmosphere by the telegraphic wires by induction and hence the disruptive discharges diminished and with them the quantity of rain is consequently lessened. Professor Faraday in his recent electrical researches, has thrown much light on this subject by his very beautiful investigations, and his extensive discoveries in this valuable branch of physical research have far surpassed in importance those of any other enquirer, either