

anxiety, but done less damage than was expected. Our returns indicate a smaller crop, possibly by 15 or 20 per cent., than last year; but the complete estimate will not be made till the crop is gathered.

It is the aim of the statistician to give the exact truth, nothing to extenuate, and nothing to depreciate. Some farmers would conceal the actual facts of the harvest, with the expectation of better prices as a result of the deception. The hope is fallacious; the fraud will always be discovered. On the other hand, there are always buyers who will give publicity to extravagant estimates to depreciate prices and magnify a scarcity, after having purchased heavily, to give an unnatural stimulus to the market. Honesty is decidedly the best policy, for farmers as well as others. In these estimates, while a doubt exists, it may be proper to give producers the benefit of it, and make the figures somewhat smaller rather than larger than the probable result. Acting on this principle, the cotton estimate for 1866 was placed at 1,835,000 bales, and that of 1867 at 2,340,000 bales, while the actual shipments of the cotton for those years reached very nearly 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 bales respectively. Could every pound have been counted in advance, no fairer statement could have issued from this department.

PEAS AND BEANS will be nearly an average crop.

BUCKWHEAT is very generally deficient; Connecticut, New Jersey, Minnesota, California, and some of the southern States, furnish favorable exceptions.

SORGHUM has been more successful than last year. Illinois and Wisconsin are not quite up to last year's production. Both buckwheat and sorghum were injured by early frosts in high latitudes.

POTATOES.—In southern New England, New Jersey, Delaware, the Gulf States and California, potatoes are reported a full average crop, with a deficiency of 10 per cent. in New York and Pennsylvania, from 3 to 7 per cent. in the southern Atlantic States and Tennessee, 20 in Illinois, 10 in Iowa, 11 in Indiana, 15 in Ohio, 16 in Michigan, and a greater or less reduction in other western States.

SUGAR-CANE.—Returns from Louisiana indicate an increase of 42 per cent. over last year.

OLD WHEAT.—The amount of old wheat on hand is somewhat less than usual throughout the country with the exception of the cotton States, which have a higher average than last year. This remark will not apply to Texas, where the granaries are uniformly empty. The quantity left over in Wisconsin, is relatively somewhat lower than in the neighboring States.

FATTENING CATTLE.—The stock of

beefes in preparation for market is larger than last year west and south of New Jersey, except in Indiana and Illinois, which States constitute an important beef-producing section. The deficiency in Illinois is placed at 2 per cent.; in Indiana 5 per cent. The condition of fattening cattle is almost universally superior, giving promise of better and larger meat supplies than usual.—*Commissioner's Report.*

Communications.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

DALKEITH, SEPT., 1868.

Mr. Editor.—Having heard of the fame of the shows held in connection with "The Glasgow and West of Scotland Horticultural Society," I determined forthwith to go and see for myself.—Starting the evening previous to the show, I proceeded as far as Falkirk, where I stopped over night. Up bright and early next morning, I paid a hurried visit to Mayfield, where sub-tropical gardening is carried on to some extent. There you see musas, dracaenas, caladiums, yuccas, tree ferns, palms, &c., growing side by side, and so luxuriant that one would almost fancy himself a denizen of some tropical forest. From the nature of the climate around Mayfield, they have resorted to the plan of planting the ribbon borders, &c., with foliage plants; in fact the striking feature about the place is the total absence of flowering plants. And I must say there is nothing lost by their omission. For what can be more gorgeous (when the flowers are picked off) than Mrs Pollock or cloths of gold geraniums; or what more graceful than that lovely grass *Dactylis glomerata variegata*.—or if plants for edgings are required, what can be neater than *Cerastium tomentosum* or *Arabis lucida variegata*, or that curious little plant called *Althernanthera spathulata*.—and, for a groundwork what can beat *Gnaphalium lanatum* or the hardy *Ajuga reptans rubra*. I would recommend the adoption of this style of gardening to those, who, in consequence of wet weather and other causes, cannot get flowering plants to succeed. As for the sub-tropicals I do not think they would suit Nova Scotia, as the winters are so long and severe—which would cause a great deal of extra trouble and expense in storing them. But I think something might be done in the way of bringing into cultivation some of the more ornamental and curious of our native plants—for example, what could look better for a back row to a ribbon border than that king of all ferns, *Osmunda regalis*—and if novelty in the way of edging is wanted, lay hold of *Sarracenia purpurea*. Of course due care would need to be taken in the selection of such plants that

they are taken from places well exposed to the sun, &c.

Among the many ornamental trees and shrubs at Mayfield I was much taken with a maple called *Acer negundo variegata*, which, with its pretty variegated leaves, had a very pleasing effect. It might prove very ornamental in Nova Scotia if grafted or budded on the common maple.

Having bid Mr. Sorely, the kind and intelligent gardener at Mayfield, good-bye, we wend our way to the station—which we reach in time for the first train for Glasgow—which place we reach after a very pleasant ride extending over an hour and a half. After seeing the "lions" in and around Glasgow, we found our way to the City Buildings, where the show was held. The scenery on entering the room was both pleasing and effective, the decorations being in good taste, the plants well arranged, and last, though not least, the room (which was four times the size of Temperance Hall,) was well filled with the beauty and fashion of the west. The first table on the right, and running the whole length of the room, was filled with tri-color, bronze, gold and silver-leaved geraniums. Truly, a great advance has been made in the cultivation of this favourite plant since flower of the day was sent out some eighteen years ago. The table on the left, and at the other side of the room, was filled thus,—at the back with large and well bloomed plants, of petunias trained on circular frames—next, stove plants, orchids, green house plants, &c.—and, in front, with cut bloom in the shape of dahlias, hollyhocks, which were very good notwithstanding the dry weather. In the centre of the room, and at right angles with the side tables, were six tables, the first of which was filled with floral designs and devices; the one that took first prize was a model of a viaduct, over 7000 everlasting flowers were consumed in its construction—it was a fine specimen of modelling and decoration. The remaining five tables were filled with stove and green-house plants, among which there were fine examples of horticultural skill. In the gallery was a table filled with cut flowers, most of which were made into bouquets, very neatly arranged,—but the most of the hand bouquets were far too large; how any lady could manage to engineer one through a hall room puzzled me. In an adjoining room a good display of fruit was made, the prizes offered for grapes being well and closely contested. As for apples and pears, I did not see anything to come up to that produced by the Nova Scotian fruit-growers, in fact at all the shows I have seen here this season, the apples exhibited were very inferior. And as an International Fruit Show is announced to be held at Edinburgh next year, when prizes will be offered to the