

EDITORIAL NOTES DURING A TRIP EAST.

After having attended a meeting of the Board of Agriculture, the latter end of July, at Kingston, we resolved on returning to Toronto by land, devoting about a week to the journey. We had thus an opportunity of calling on a considerable number of agriculturists, through the several districts we had to pass, of observing the state of the crops, and the different systems of farm practice; and of obtaining much valuable information. This article will therefore be made up from some of our jottings on the way.

We found the Local Committee at Kingston actively at work in making preparations for the approaching exhibition; and everything indicated a unanimity and strength of purpose that will ensure the completeness of the arrangements. The corporation of the city of Kingston, and the council of the united counties having made liberal grants, the accommodation provided for every department of the show will be much improved and augmented. From all that we could learn there is every reason to believe that the exhibition will be, as on previous occasions,—a credit to the various branches of industry that create the wealth and constitute the stability of the country.

We were somewhat surprised to find the country for several miles around Kingston suffering from a severe drought, the ground not having been thoroughly wetted since the commencement of spring. Notwithstanding, the Kingston market appeared to be well supplied with vegetables of excellent quality, and at moderate prices. This lime stone soil, in a showery season especially, is admirably adapted to fruit, vegetables and grasses, which it produces in abundance and of the best quality. For many years we have been in the practice, when in Kingston, of going over the Vicar General's extensive garden, adjoining Regiopolis College, and have seen horticultural operations of the more ordinary and useful character carried on there with much success. This garden affords a pleasing illustration of the triumph of skill and labor over great natural difficulties; the lime stone rock cropping out to the surface having been quarried for the building of the college, and conse-

quently a new soil had to be formed. The drought this season has seriously affected the crops; the fruit trees, several of them at least appear declining, and the garden having gone as we understand, in other hands, there is an absence of that attention and clean culture for which it used to be distinguished. In the bye, the Bishop's garden, of much small extent a little higher up, has recently been formed under similar disadvantages. It is quite a gem of its kind; the vegetables excellent and flowers beautiful. This stiff soil has been much ameliorated by deep and thorough tillage, and might be further improved by an admixture of decomposed black muck or bog earth, and well rotted sod mould. We are always pleased to see the clergy bringing their taste and influence to bear on the improved culture of the soil, whether be on the farm or in the garden. Instances of this are to be seen everywhere in the British islands, and most European countries attended by untold blessings. The church that is the religious houses, even in the gloomiest periods of history, was not only the conservator of learning, but she kept alive the embers of agricultural knowledge and of terrestrial improvement. The monks were the best farmers and gardeners of the age. Happy would it be if every country minister the present day had attached to his residence a beautiful garden and productive glebe and while impressing on his people the high truths of revelation, did not omit to teach both by precept and example those salutary and refining lessons which the cultivation of the soil, directed by a love and knowledge of nature, is so admirably calculated to impart.

The country on either side of the beautiful and extended bay of Quinte is varied and exceedingly picturesque in appearance, the soil resting on solid limestone rock, and generally productive. Amherst Island which separates the lower part of the bay from Lake Ontario, belongs to an Irish gentleman, who entrusts the management of this magnificent property, consisting of about 12,000 acres, to his brother, Mr. Percival, with whom we formed an acquaintance while crossing the Atlantic, some three years ago. The farms on the island are generally small, or at least of moderate extent, rents very low, and the people well to do. No winter wheat is now raised, nor root crops, except potatoes to any extent. The timber is mostly hard wood, with no more of it than is sufficient for fuel and fencing. The land is well adapted in most places to pasturage, and several of the farmers have good grade cattle, and excellent Leicester sheep. Draining here, as in most other parts, must be the principal means of agricultural advancement.

We spent two or three days very pleasantly in the county of Prince Edward, the surface