

and five pigs. The sheep comprise Leicester, Cotswold, Shropshire Downs and Cheviots. In Leicesters and Cotswolds Mr. Miller stands unrivalled. He has, I believe, the largest flock, comprising the largest carcass, and longest woolled sheep, of any breeder in Canada, and I suppose I am safe in saying, has carried off the most prizes of any exhibitor at our local and Provincial Fairs. At Hamilton, last year, he carried off the Gold Medal for the best bull shown. I had lately the pleasure of going over the farm and was shown the new breed of sheep—Shropshire Downs—lately introduced by Mr. Miller. They are pure bred, and to the uninitiated appear to be every thing desired in size, shape, and wool, and in Mr. Miller's opinion a decided improvement on South Downs, as being larger in the body, longer in the wool, and in every way better adapted to the country. Of Cheviots, Mr. Miller has also introduced a sample. For some localities these may be better adapted. Time, however, will test this. The six Gallo-way heifers, pure bred and of fine appearance, make quite an addition to his stock. The Ayrshire cow and calf are also pure bred, and considered by many to be a decided advantage to the dairyman. The sow and pigs are of the Yorkshire and Cumberland improved breed, and are really fine animals. Mr. Miller has, I think, the best herd of Short Horns in the County of York, and when I say that I may as well stump the Province. His bull, Prince of Wales, is a noble animal, and although only three years old, has taken eleven prizes—three at New York State Fair, two Provincial, and six local—And no less than four medals. I do not think the same can be said of any other animal in Canada.

It is worth a day's ride to visit the Laird of Riggfoot. You will find a large farm, well and profitably managed, with by far the largest flock of sheep from imported stock in the Province, and his stock of cattle surpasses anything of the kind in the country. It would well repay you, Mr. Editor, to pay Mr. Miller a visit, and as a friend of the Laird of Riggfoot I extend to you a cordial invitation, and will ensure you a hospitable treatment and a friendly welcome.

Yours truly,

JAMES.

Toronto, Sept. 13, 1861.

Flax Culture in Canada.

[The importance of this question is so great that we insert below two letters published in the *Leader*, from gentlemen professing ample opportunities of forming a sound judgment upon the subject.]

WESTON, Sept. 19, 1861.

To the Editor of the *Leader*.

DEAR SIR,—I have just returned from Europe,

where I have been on a mission of some months, principally in the northern counties of Ireland and in Scotland with a view of promoting emigration to Canada and it may be interesting to some of your readers to know that from nine to ten thousand emigrants have reached our shores this season in excess of the numbers up to this period last year. This, I can safely say, is mainly owing to the active measures taken by the Canadian Government, in circulating, through the hands of agents, a large amount of valuable printed information in pamphlet form, with maps of both Provinces. I also feel quite warranted in stating that the foundation is laid for a large increase next and following years. My attention has been particularly directed to small farmers of Ulster and other places with more or less means. Many have expressed their desire at once to leave for Canada, but have frankly acknowledged their inability to do so on a few months notice, and numbers have their minds made up to be prepared next spring. Although the population of Ireland has materially decreased during the last few years, yet the large landowners are most anxious to have their farms enlarged and in fewer hands. The tenants, too, are most anxious to better their position, and to be relieved of the heavy rents and still heavier taxes; and of necessity they are driven to seek a home in Canada, or some other country, for themselves and families.

The present disruption in the United States will also serve to swell the tide of emigration to Canada for many years to come, as at present every vessel leaving New York, Philadelphia and other seaports is taking large numbers back to Europe, and many are coming direct to this country.

On my arrival in Belfast, I found a strong desire on the part of the linen manufacturers and spinners to encourage largely the growth of Flax. The present supply not being anything like equal to the demand, agents were being sent to India and other places, at great expense to give instructions in the cultivation of the plant. The question at once presented itself to my mind why could it not be grown in Canada. I feel confident that it could be done to great advantage. If the farmers would only give it a fair trial, they would be convinced that it is a more profitable crop than wheat, especially in many of the front townships, where the average is not more than 16 to 18 bushels to the acre. Many farmers in the North of Ireland sold their flax on foot this season for £20 sterling per acre, and prices vary from £50 to £100 per ton; and for fair qualities often £150 a ton is obtained. The want of machinery for dressing it I am aware, has been a drawback up to the present time, as Scutching Mills have been expensive and require skilled labour at high rates to enable the farmer to get it prepared for market. But a Flax Scutching machine is now manufactured by Messrs. Rouse & Co., Belfast,