

*Copy of a Letter received from Mr. George Craig,
of Southampton, C. W.*

COUNTY OF BRUCE, C. W.,

Southampton, 18th September, 1862.

SIR,—In the "*Montreal Witness*," of the 15th June, I have seen a circular referring to how Emigration of the right sort is to be promoted, which I highly approved, both as regards its theory and practice, and which should be taken into consideration by every Agriculturist, both for the benefit of himself and also of the poor Emigrants who are daily arriving on our shores, but who do not know what course to pursue in order to procure a support for themselves until they become acquainted with the Country. And as I am a farmer in this County and own considerable land, I would like well to get some Emigrants on part of it, and would quite agree with you in your suggestion as to the way they should get it, viz: Suppose from 10 to 50 acres with some clearing and a comfortable "cabane" thereupon, was given to such, for a term of 2, 3 or 4 years with the understanding that they should clear and work for you what is reasonable for it. Thereby gaining for themselves a comfortable support, and also improving the land for their employers. Now, I will give 10 or 12 Emigrant families such a chance myself, and can also assure you that many other parties in this place would do the same. And take it upon the whole the County of Bruce cannot be surpassed for such persons to steer to when they land in Quebec. As it is a new country with good land, and a healthy climate, good steady hands who have been 2 or 3 years in the Country get from \$12 to \$18 per month, and I think it right to inform you as head of the Emigrant Office to let all such know where they find plenty of work at liberal wages. They can get here pretty easily from Quebec—by Rail to Toronto, thence to Goderich and by boat to Southampton.—Time from Quebec about 1 days, distance 697 miles.

I am, Sir,
Your very Obedient Servant,
GEORGE CRAIG.

*Extract from a letter received by the Chief Agent,
from Scotland.—October, 1862.*

I hope to have a large party to send out next spring; your circular is excellent, and the proposal made just meets the want, that has always frightened me for my poor people, I hope your Canadian proprietors will respond to it warmly.

CHRISTMAS-DAY ON A THURSDAY.

Peterboro, C. W., Christmas-day, 1862.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "*CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST*."—Dear SIR,—The occurrence, this year, of Christmas-day on a Thursday reminds me of the following lines, with the name of whose author I am, however, unacquainted. They ap-

pear among the celebrated papers deposited in the British Museum, and known as the "*Bibliotheca Harleiana*." Not having that work at hand for reference, I can give no more than the fragment I have transcribed. It may not prove uninteresting to such as are in the habit of noting the signs of the Seasons, as well as "the signs of the Times," and of recording passing events as well as passing storms, to bear these verses in mind, and compare them, occasionally, with what transpires both above and upon the earth; and thus, to a certain extent, ascertain whether the old Author was warranted, and if so to what extent, in penning his quaintly-poetic prophecy. The Harleian MSS. were collected partly by the first and partly by the second Earl of Oxford, the latter of whom died in 1741.

"If Christmas day on Thursday be,
A windy winter you shall see;
Windy weather in each week,
And hard tempests, strong and thick;
The summer shall be good and dry,
Corn and beasts shall multiply;
That year is good for lands to till,
Kings and Princes shall die by skill;
If a child that day born should be,
It shall happen right well for thee,
Of deeds he shall be good and stable,
Wise of speech and reasonable.
Whoso that day goes thieving about,
He shall be punished without doubt;
And if sickness that day betide,
It shall quickly from thee glide."

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
VINCENT CLEMENTI.

FLAX SCUTCHING.

In the first place, sufficient interest is not taken by any party in connection with flax scutching. The farmer is in a hurry to get scutched, the mill-owner to make money, and the scutcher to make wages. Thus all parties concerned being in a hurry, no wonder that the work is slovenly and badly done. The millowner never thinks of taking the responsibility of standing between the farmer and the scutcher; the entire management and control therefore devolve on the scutcher, and he very easily persuades the farmer that he should not get his flax all scutched away. This the farmer agrees to, and desires the scutcher not to scutch his flax too far. Now, though this be well meant on the part of the farmer, it is taken advantage of by the scutcher. He will, consequently, scutch it both roughly and hurriedly. The secret of all this is—the scutcher makes more wages, the millowner more money, but the poor farmer sustains more loss. Again, a millowner does not think of losing his time with the supervision of two, four, or six stocks or stands; and even in the larger mills the owner may not take the responsibility of the