

ony. Many of his remarks are truthful and valuable, but no individual, travelling as Mr. Caird did, *could* form a correct opinion of the agricultural status and prospects of Canada. At page 26, &c., he says, "the country from Hamilton to Paris is undulating, and seems an easier and more fertile soil; very little of it is wholly cleared; certainly more than half is still an unbroken forest, but the trees are immensely tall, and show the rapid growth which only a fertile soil could produce. Though this district is quite within the limit profitable of the culture of Indian Corn, a small proportion only of the land seems to be occupied by that crop. Its great value is every where admitted, but on this description of soil its cultivation demands too much labour. The last grain crop can hardly have been great, for in very few instances indeed are ricks to be seen outside the barns, and they are not capacious enough to contain large crops," &c.

Had Mr. Caird journeyed through this country in any other way than by railway, he would have formed a much more correct opinion of the extent under cultivation: this he has very much underrated. Fully three-fourths of this whole district of country is cleared and enclosed, and a large portion of it highly cultivated. If there was little Indian Corn in 1858, it was because other crops promised to pay better, and the spring of 1858 was peculiarly wet and cold; but there is a very large extent of it this year, and although a little late it will prove an abundant crop. The absence of ricks outside the barn, as alluded to by Mr. Caird, is owing to the great abundance of timber, and the great facility with which Canadians construct large barns, quite sufficient to hold even very luxuriant crops. Every good Canadian farmer provides substantial covering for his whole crops, instead of having recourse to ricks with their temporary covering of straw. The material, except nails, they have within themselves, and most of them can help to build them. The work of building a barn 60 feet by 30, and 18 feet post, can be done for £40 sterling; and most farmers have two if not three of these large barns, besides long sheds in which to store hay, &c.; so that the absence of ricks is no criterion of deficiency; but, on the contrary, their presence is rather a sign that the farmer is a new settler, and as yet unable to put up the permanent covering for his produce, which old and successful farmers universally provide. As to Mr. Caird's assertion that on this "easier and more fertile soil" the cultivation of Indian corn demands too much labour, it may be safely urged that labour is cheaper in Canada than in Illinois, and that the corn crop is nearly as productive in the district he alludes to as it is in Illinois, and being of a much superior quality sells at a much higher price. The fact is, that wheat in this district has been hitherto so fine, and selling at such high prices, that the growth of Indian corn has been neglected too much for the welfare of the farmer. This very part of Canada which Mr. Caird describes in the above quotation is noted for producing the very finest samples of wheat, weighing 62 lbs., and even 63 lbs., to the Winchester bushel, and has for years carried off