

nearly all is due to the improved quality of manure." "If," he says, "we feed our farms, they will feed and also clothe us well in return."

From such experience as this in tilling the soil, is it any wonder that the forest enthusiasts have to complain of the tardiness of those who have cleared the land, in falling in with their utopian ideas about the country being destroyed, about our seasons being changed, about the rains not coming so often nor so gentle, and so on. That there is a great variation in the seasons, we all know. This spring, with the least woods we ever had, has been as early and fine and the rains as gentle, if not more so, than any spring for 40 years; while last spring was a late one, with cold and heavy rains. In 1864, with a great deal more woods than now, we had in May three cold rains a week apart, each rain finishing with snow; and the year before, 1863, May was a summer month. In 1847, when this part was about all woods, there was a heavy snowstorm on the 15th of June. In the College Report for 1884, we learn that for the months of August, September, and October, the number of days on which rain fell, were 10.12 and 10 respectively; while the year before, for the same months, they were only 2, 6, 6; but that about as much rain fell in the six days of September as in the twelve the year after. These differences, just one year apart, seem to spoil the theory that the trees are such an important factor in regulating the weather.

Mr. Phipps would press on all owners of farms to make a shelter belt broad enough for a small forest on the most exposed sides to keep off the winds. This might seem very nice on cold windy days, but it is not on such days the farmer has to be working out so much as on warm sultry days—and to be haying and harvesting in hot weather under the lee of a forest is anything but desirable, besides the great difficulty often in securing crops in good condition where you cannot have the wind to help to dry them.

Forestry and farming are two things, and either, to be a success, require to be pretty well separated. And while most places can have a good many trees to advantage if judiciously arranged, to act upon the advice of some persons, there would soon be a much greater mistake made than has been in what they term the over-clearing of the forests. The first raising I was at in this Township (Collingwood), it came on a storm, and when the trees commenced to crash down, the stampede that was made for a small chopping there was, showed everyone to be minding his own business. In the run I lost my hat, and had to put my head under a log to save it from the hailstones. "Say not thou, what is the cause that the former days were better than these, for those do not enquire wisely concerning this."