

memoranda, you may perhaps gather something that may assist you to form an opinion of what could be accomplished under more favorable circumstances. Wishing you a great measure of success and personal satisfaction on the result of your efforts to bring our County into notice as to its agricultural value,

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your very obedient servant,
(Signed) JAMES P. WELLS.

Charles P. Treadwell, Esq., &c., &c., &c.,
L'Original, C. W.

POTATO DIGGER.—The letter of Mr. W. W. Waite, and an article in reply, is unavoidably postponed. It will appear in our next issue.

DEATH OF MRS. THOMAS.

We deeply regret to announce the death, since our last issue, of this esteemed lady. She died shortly after giving birth to a son, and has left a void in the ranks of Canadian female writers that will not soon be filled. She had undertaken to supply a series of articles for this paper on Education, Health, Familiar Chemistry, and kindred subjects, for which she was well qualified, but she has been summoned away in the midst of her work. Our readers as well as ourselves have sustained a loss. For she was a pleasant, judicious, and skilful instructor. Mrs. Thomas was a native of the adjoining State but had resided for some years at Brooklin, in the Township of Whitby,

WINTER EVENING STUDIES.

Winter is again upon us. Admonished of its near approach, by threatening clouds, and winds, and storms of rain and snow, it is appropriate, and will not be unprofitable, we hope, to present some of the advantages which may be enjoyed during that season; not indeed by all, for some occupations will permit of being carried forward within doors, by night as well as by day. But to those engaged in other pursuits, winter, comparatively, is a period of repose. During the day-time, it is true, industry will keep busy the willing hand; but the days are growing shorter and the nights are lengthening; and the evenings of winter almost every man may have at his own control.—At the close of the day, when the burdens that have been manfully borne are cast down until the next return of morning, the laboring man, beneath his own roof, should feel himself independent of the necessities that may have been imperiously demanding his attention and strength, and should devote his evenings to rational amusement and study, at home. Were we to enter upon a calculation of the number of hours which each might thus save from running to waste, which he might devote to the cultivation of his own mind, and to the improvement of his family, it would be found that the general sum amounts to no inconsiderable portion of a life time. Let our readers

should they be curious in this matter, figure it up for themselves, assuming as the basis that the average duration of life, after twenty-one, is thirty years, and that for four months in the year there are daily two hours of evening; they will then ascertain that the period which might be devoted to the purpose we have suggested, will comprise one-thirtieth part of the active and most valuable portion of our lives. During the long winter evenings, if a man should resolutely apply himself to the reading of useful books, which are almost too common to be prized so highly as they ought, how much valuable information might be gathered and treasured up; and if he should read aloud, a most commendable practice, in our opinion, at the fireside, the benefits would be conferred, in most part upon all the members of the household. Wherever this method of spending the evenings has been adopted, there has been created, if it did not exist before, a taste which can appreciate the delicate pleasure that flows from contact with the brightest thoughts and noblest sentiments of the great master minds that illuminated the world. And it also will be found that, amongst those who pursue this course, there is a growing disrelish for the baser gratifications, so nearly akin to vices, to be found in bar-rooms and saloons, at the card table, and in loud, boisterous and unmeaning mirth; and that, in the family circle, the congeniality of feeling, the correspondence of manners, and the affectionateness arising from exalted sympathy are much strengthened: so that home becomes to a man the most attractive place on earth. Whoever will adopt this plan of winter evening studies, and persevere in it, although it may at first be irksome, and for a while dull, will ere long discover coming to his aid one of the most valuable mental habits which it is possible to form; as the accustomed hour draws near, his mind will turn eagerly towards his books in search of that companionship which is to be found in the printed page alone—a companionship with the most powerful intellects in the moments of their inspiration. The privilege which is thus conferred upon the studious is invaluable. Who would not esteem himself happy could he but sit down for an hour with Plato, or Bacon, or Franklin, and with Shakspeare, or Milton, or Wordsworth? And yet, gratifying as that might be, what would the instructiveness and interest of a mere casual conversation amount to, in comparison with the deliberate unfolding of the very heart, the laying open of the rich treasures of wisdom, which is made in the writings of these distinguished men? After pursuing awhile this plan of reading evenings, the mind will gradually become accustomed to carry with it into the workshop and into the field the acquaintances which have been made in books, and, whilst wielding the hammer, or drawing the thread, or following the plow, will busy itself with reflections upon matters of solid and enduring interest, and will not, as we fear is too often the case with laboring men, remain unoccupied, a temple without a shrine, or, what is worse still, indulge in loose and corrupting visions, which can but deprave and destroy it.