

Home Department.

THE SUMMER OF 1874.

THE close of summer can scarcely fail to suggest to the thoughtful and devout some profitable reflections. The season just ended has been marked in an eminent degree by the loving-kindness and tender mercy of Him who crowneth the year with goodness. The teeming earth has brought forth plentifully, and the husbandman has been permitted to gather a rich and abundant harvest. The crop just gathered in every part of the Dominion, from all accounts, appears to have been considerably above an average one. This should, in any country, be regarded as matter of devout rejoicing and thanksgiving to Him who is the bountiful source of all blessing; but to a country like our own, whose prosperity is so largely dependent upon agriculture, and in which a short crop would inevitably derange every branch of business, and be productive of so much suffering, its importance is even greater than in some others, in which the sources of prosperity are more numerous, and which are less dependent upon any one particular branch of industry.

The summer has not only been marked by the luxuriant productiveness of the earth, but by the absence of all wide-spread and desolating epidemics. It has been a season of general health. The cholera, which for several years had been hovering around us but had not gained a foothold upon our shores, has not only been kept away from us, but has, apparently, disappeared from the Continent. The small-pox, which for a year or two not only raged with considerable virulence in particular places, but threatened at one time to overspread the whole country, has almost entirely subsided. If it exists at all among us, it is confined to a very few localities, and is very limited in its ravages. The typhoid fever, which of late years has been much more prevalent than formerly, and has in some instances assumed an epidemic form, appears to have not only not been so prevalent as in some other seasons, but it has assumed a milder and more manageable form. Even ordinary complaints, which are largely the result of imprudence, owing in part, we may hope, to the growing intelligence of the people, and stricter attention to the laws of health, but largely, no doubt, to the purity of the atmosphere and the comparative uniformity of the temperature, have