

Literary Notices.

The American Entomologist.

Edited by Messrs. Benj. D. Walsh, Rock Island, Ill., and C. V. Riley, St. Louis, Mo.; published monthly by R. P. Studley & Co., No. 104 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo. No. 1, September, 1868. Price, \$1 per annum.

We gladly welcome the revival, in another form, of that most useful periodical, the *Practical Entomologist*, whose untimely demise we lamented not long ago. The present undertaking, though similar in its objects, is now being carried on under the auspices of no society, but entirely as a business enterprise, by business men, and upon a business footing. With two such men for editors as the State Entomologists of Illinois and Missouri, who have been well known to the scientific world for their writings and investigations, and to the agricultural world for their practical work, the one in the periodical above mentioned, the other in the *Prairie Farmer*, we do not doubt that the proprietors will find their enterprise a successful one, while the farmers and gardeners of the continent will glean from its pages information that will save their pockets, collectively, many thousands of dollars per annum. The first number, which is now before us, consists of twenty large octavo double-column pages, well and clearly printed, and illustrated with nine wood-cuts from the pencil of the junior editor. All the numbers are to be well illustrated, and it is the intention of the publishers to furnish at least one coloured lithographic plate in addition with each volume. The contents of the present number are varied and interesting, and written in an easy and lively style; the first article, which is of an introductory character, proves most conclusively the need of such a journal, and the importance to all of the practical study of the nature and habits of insects. The following sentences, which, considering the devastation of such a wide extent of western country by locusts this year, (witness the appeal for aid from the Red River Settlement,) we do not believe to be exaggerated, are sufficient of themselves to prove this:—"We are certainly speaking within bounds when we assert that, taking one year with another, the United States suffer from the depredations of noxious insects, to the amount of THREE HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. We by no means maintain that it is possible by preventive measures to save the nation the whole of this gigantic sum; but we do contend and firmly believe that it is perfectly practicable, by long-continued observation and careful experiment, to save a considerable percentage of this enormous sum total. It may, and probably will, take many, many years of hard work in the field, and anxious deliberation in the closet, to arrive at such a result; but in the meantime every step that is gained in advance will be so much money saved to the community. Suppose, for example, that during the next two or three years preventive measures should be discovered by which the total annual damage inflicted by insects is diminished only to the amount of one-half of one per cent. Then, according to the data above given, the nation will gain annually, for all time, to the amount of ONE MILLION AND A HALF DOLLARS!"

We are requested to state that, as before, in the case of the *Practical Entomologist*, persons in Canada desirous of obtaining the *American Entomologist* can procure it, postage free, on remitting one dollar to the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Secretary to the Entomological Society of Canada; the difference in exchange pays both the American and Canadian postage.

INDIAN CORN—Its value, culture, and uses, by Edward Enfield, published by Appleton & Co., New York.—This is a complete and highly practical treatise on the culture of Indian corn. This impor-

tant grain is not grown in Canada to the extent to which we believe it might be with advantage and profit. The soil and climate in certain sections of the country are well adapted for this noble cereal, and we hope to see it more extensively cultivated by Canadian farmers. We commend the above work to their attention. The subject is treated concisely, yet very fully, the following being the principal topics successfully treated: Varieties; adaptation of varieties to soil and climate; average yield and productiveness; selection and preparation of seed; planting, after cultivation, harvesting, and storing; enemies and diseases; stalks and leaves as fodder; and finally, its various uses and economical value. The agents for the sale of the work in Canada are Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co., Toronto.

THE COUNTRY GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.—We have received, from England, the first number of this new monthly periodical. It is a handsome magazine, octavo size, beautifully printed, with clear and large type, and containing 180 pages of valuable and interesting matter. With this is incorporated the *Journal of Agriculture*, an old established magazine of the highest standing. Most of the articles are reprints from the *Farmer*, (Scottish), a very convenient way of preserving in suitable form the most important and permanently useful matter of that foremost in the rank of British Agricultural journals. The letterpress is illustrated with well-executed engravings, and the whole would form, at the end of the year, a goodly volume of agricultural literature.

WHITLOCK'S HORTICULTURAL RECORDER.—The August number (No. 2, vol. 2) of this publication is full of valuable information on horticultural matters. There is appended a prospectus and catalogue of the "Perpetual Exhibition, or Agricultural Bazaar," referred to in our Editorial notice of the establishment of the *American Agriculturist*.

ELLWANGER AND BARRY'S DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF FRUIT.—This catalogue, just received from the proprietors of the Mount Hope Nurseries, Rochester, New York, contains, as usual, a very full list of fruits adapted for the United States, and most of them are well suited for our Canadian climate.

O'KEEFE & SON'S CATALOGUE.—We have also received from M. O'Keefe & Son, of Rochester, a Catalogue of Fruit Plants and of Dutch Bulbous Flower Roots—complete and excellent lists.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Agriculture in Scotland.

HILL FARMING—BALMORAL—TREE PLANTING—TURNIP CULTURE—LOWLAND FARMS, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I wrote you last from Aberdeen, immediately after the exhibition; since then I have enjoyed the opportunity of seeing a large portion of Scotland, and of having much personal intercourse with farmers and others engaged in the various industrial pursuits of life. I have attended several markets, fairs and local shows, affording me the means of much valuable information, and also of imparting information respecting the resources, &c., of Canada, in which I found great interest manifested in several localities.

"Hill-farming," as it is termed in the more mountainous districts of Scotland, presents many points of interest to a lowlander or stranger. The extent of such farms is often estimated by the amount of cattle and sheep they will maintain, and not by the number of acres they contain. In some parts of the Highlands it requires two or three acres to keep a sheep all the year round, and it is surprising to find how large an area one shepherd, assisted by his wonderfully sagacious dog, can manage to superintend. These dogs, which are generally well trained, are indispensable among these hills and rugged precipices in the manage-

ment of sheep, and are in fact of much greater service for such purposes than men. In fine weather sheep-farming in the Highlands is a very pleasant and healthy occupation, but like most other pursuits it has its dark side; the rain and snow storms common to these regions at certain seasons, render the shepherd life one of much anxiety, and sometimes even of privation and hardship. In extreme cold and boisterous weather the sheep are collected in the lower grounds, and temporary protection afforded them, and, perhaps, a little hay, turnips, &c., given them; but as a general rule, they have to forage for themselves all the year round, and, with proper attention, it is surprising how well they do. The black-faced or heather sheep is the breed that universally prevails through all the higher districts. They are beautiful-looking animals, horned, the males most gracefully so, extremely hardy, slow growers, and yield the best mutton in the world. They subsist on the coarse grasses and heather of the hills, and the flavor of their flesh is peculiarly savoury, with an exquisitely short and tender fibre, when kept for a few days. I more than once partook of mutton from four years old wethers, by far the finest I ever tasted in my life; much superior to the Southdown, and even to the Welsh mountain breeds. This high degree of excellence, I was informed, could only be attained in animals fully matured by age; a rule that obtains in other of the domestic animals besides mountain sheep. The West Highland cattle are beautiful little creatures, and their beef is of very superior quality, fetching, with the mutton, a higher price to the extent of a penny or more a pound than the larger and coarser breeds, in the London and other English markets.

In the Western Highlands, where the climate is excessively humid, and sheep suffer more from wet than cold, the practice of surface draining the slopes of the hills has been introduced with very salutary results. Small furrows are made by the plough or spade, according to the inclination of the undulating surface, so as to give the water that falls in showers a more ready exit into the lower or natural channels of drainage. This is found to render the surface drier and warmer, to induce the growth of grass of a better quality, and prevent, or at all events mitigate the foot rot. It is a common practice to set fire to the heather when it gets old and scrubby, thus inducing a new growth, which is much coveted by sheep. In some of the lower slopes I learnt that the application of quick lime had been found most beneficial to the natural pastures, sweetening and improving the herbage, both as to quantity and quality, in a high degree.

Your readers will form an idea of the extremely small area capable of cultivation in some parts of the Highlands, when I state, that on Her Majesty's estate of Balmoral, consisting of upwards of 20,000 acres, I was informed that scarcely 500 admitted of any kind of cultivation. Besides the rather extensive ornamental plantations immediately around the castle and the adjoining permanent pasture, I observed only a few acres of oats and turnips, both of which were suffering much from the effects of drought on a thin gravelly soil. The dairy consists of eighteen cows, of the Ayrshire breed, which I did not see, as they were in the woods, for want of grass in the pastures. The dairywoman, as well as her husband, was very intelligent, and quite disposed to afford me any information. The dairy is a small, but very suitable building, rather elegantly fitted up, but all its parts quite in keeping with the object it has to serve. There is no kitchen or fruit garden of any consequence at Balmoral, the soil and climate being naturally unsuited to such purposes.

In these higher districts only a little rye, oats, and barley are grown, and even these crops are in some seasons quite uncertain. Wheat is never attempted. Potatoes and turnips do pretty well. Hay is the most important crop, and is produced of pretty fair quality in the narrow valleys. As an instance of the peculiar character of the present season, I may observe that I