

English Letter, No. 13.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, April 6.

Since my last letter was written, one subject, and one only, has engrossed the public attention here; and that is the general election. If my present letter, therefore, is somewhat meagre, you must blame politics. I could write enough to fill three or four of your pages on election topics, but I know that neither you nor your readers would thank me for them. Suffice it to say, then, that the result of the dissolution of Parliament has astonished everybody.

Amongst the individual elections it may interest your readers to know that Mr. Thomas Duckham, the distinguished agriculturist and breeder of Herefords, who contested Herefordshire as a Tenant Farmers' Candidate, has been successful. Herefordshire has three members, and Mr. Duckham was third on the poll. Mr. D. is a warm friend of Canada.

In several of my previous letters I have referred to the horse trade, and have pointed out the splendid market there is here for well-bred heavy cart horses, suitable for the special traffic of Liverpool, Manchester and other large towns. I have therefore especial pleasure in stating that Mr. C. J. Douglas has just purchased for Messrs. A. & R. Wells, of Aurora, Ont., from Mr. Thomas Statter, jun., proprietor of the world-famous Stand stud, Manchester, the splendid Clydesdale stallion "Sir William Wallace." This grand horse was bred by Mr. Pitcairn, of Blacklands, North Britain. His sire was the noted "Scotsman," dam "Jean" by "Ivanhoe." He was purchased by Mr. Statter at the Glasgow Spring Show, in 1879, when five years old, for £350. He has since won the £150 prize of the Turrill Agricultural Society, and was first in the very large Clydesdale class at the great Birmingham Show, amongst his competitors being the well-known "Topsman." With the competition that exists for really first-rate stock, Canadians must be bold, and be prepared to pay "stiff" prices for first-class sires, if they would hold their own in the English market; and I trust that Messrs. Wells will reap an adequate reward for the enterprise they have shown. I observe that eleven other stallions selected from some of the best studs in Scotland have been sent out per the S. S. Ontario for employment in Canada and the States.

Messrs. Hendrie & Douglas have made some valuable importations of carriage horses from Ontario to Liverpool, and are now occupying stables which were recently vacated by Mr. Cremer, the agent of Messrs. Dalman & Co., of New York. I understand that, as they select only animals of really good quality, they have met with fair success, and have ordered further consignments.

Several shipments of cattle have recently been made from the Maritime Provinces, and the salesman to whom they were consigned informs me that some of the beasts realized as much as £45 per head in the London market yesterday. This is a remarkable price, and must indicate both good breeding and excellent feeding; and it behooves your western breeders to take note of it, for, as I have said before, only one article is suitable for the British market, and that is simply the best that can be produced.

The revised and completed edition of the reports of the Farmers' Delegates who visited you in the fall, has now been issued, and I understand that something like 100,000 copies have been circulated, or are in course of distribution. It is in my humble opinion the very finest specimen of "Emigration" literature ever produced.

I observed the other day some curious statistics about the French poultry trade. It is calculated

that there are in France forty millions of hens, which produce annually four milliards of eggs and one hundred millions of chickens; and the annual value of the products of the French poultry yards is put down at the enormous figure of 550 millions of francs, or say 110 millions of dollars. Veritably great effects spring from little causes. The above figures, be it remembered, do not include ducks, geese and turkeys, in which also a vast trade is done.

I observe that there is still a large import of Canadian potatoes, a large proportion being for seed.

Intelligent Farming.

When first commencing business a dairyman should be willing to sell his produce for what it will bring; but in all cases he should use his utmost endeavors to produce the best article. This he can do to some extent by carefully experimenting, but to attain the highest state of perfection a man must be a constant and careful reader, thus adding to his own experience the experience of others, and also receiving much benefit from the investigations of scientific men. But we often hear from the farmers the declaration, "We have not any time to read." Why? "Because we have too much manual labor to do ourselves, and if we should spend any time in reading, investigating or experimenting, we should have to hire more men and pay out more cash for the additional labor thereby incurred—an immediate financial loss." Quite true; we agree such appears to be the case, but we also know this idea is "penny wise and pound foolish," for by adhering to it we keep in the same old ruts as our forefathers. But this we can do no longer, as the soil has lost much of its virgin fertility and calls loudly for more enlightened husbandry. We have repeatedly noticed studious young farmers who had no better school advantages, and not as good financial starts in life as many others, who have in a few years taken honorable situations in our country, and have been the means of elevating the agricultural standard of Canada. These men have been ridiculed as "scientific farmers," "gentlemen farmers," etc., but the hard times of the last few years have shown that these men have shielded themselves from much of the evil that has fallen upon the other class.

Another noticeable and praiseworthy feature in favor of the reading farmers is that their homes and farms are more beautiful and more comfortable in all ways, and if this were the only argument it should be sufficient to convince any sane man; but beside this, their families are more refined and intelligent, and better fitted for higher and more useful spheres in life. The reading farmer also becomes fully conversant with each department of his business, and does nothing in the dark—a striking contrast to the non-reader, who does very much at hap-hazard, hoping for the best results, but not knowing whether they will be obtained or not.

The wisest, most useful and most successful men the world has ever known have been to a great or less extent studious readers; and there is no calling in life which demands more careful study and investigation than that of the farmer. Reading will elevate the farmer from a tired drudge to an intelligent and respected citizen. Then, and not until then, will his calling receive that respect to which it is entitled, for knowledge means power.

M. W. E. writes from Iowa to the April number of the Prairie Farmer: "Hog Cholera is raging fearfully in some portions of the country, many farmers losing all they had, from 50 to 100, and even 150 in some instances. All hogs fit to market have been turned off at about 3c. per pound."

Young Farmers.

The young farmer who starts for himself at the age of twenty-one has to make up his mind chiefly and principally to a course of honest, steady work; it is absolutely necessary that his mind should be indelibly impressed with this fact; nothing succeeds like work. Thomas Carlyle, the Chelsea sage, has said that the only pleasure in life is in hearty work, and that those who do not work are lichens, mere drones and parasites upon the industrious. Now, there are two sorts of work—one which is mere drudgery, and continually, on this account, unsatisfactory and making the worker discontented; the other a joy and a pleasure, because the heart is in it and there is a pride in doing it well. Therefore, young farmers, be proud of your work and your calling; condemn any misapprehensions in your mind as to thinking that a politician, a merchant or a lawyer has a more noble career; leave such thoughts behind, and remember that the nobleness of any career does not and can not consist in the calling itself, but in the manner in which you carry it on. No profession or calling is of itself ennobling; the man always ennoble the calling by succeeding in it. Let these two motives, then, actuate your hearts and hands from the start—the determination to work well and honestly, and to stick to your calling. Do not be ambitious to become rich; be ambitious to improve yourself and to make others happy, and to leave the world better—no matter how little—than you found it.

It is said that it is easy to advise, as if this were any objection to it; if it is so easy, be yours the task to accept it—do not be unwilling to learn from older heads than yours—do not think that you know everything and that the "old man" is behind the times. He can always see things more surely than you can; listen to him and get his reasons from him (he will be pleased to tell you). Above all, be kind to him, though you may think he is wrong. It may sound common-place to talk like this, but if it should induce but one young man to think over his moral duties, too often left out of sight in farming affairs, this will not have been written in vain. If you are married, relieve your good wife of the laborious duties; do not think her work is less arduous than yours, because in a great many cases it is more vexatious and annoying. To put all that I have written into a maxim—Be true to yourself and to others.

In your farm work be not anxious to keep as large a herd or as many acres of land as your neighbor; be not anxious to try every new-fangled experiment; begin in a moderate way, and increase as you see your way clear; adapt your system of farming to the district or township in which you may happen to be situated, and once you have chosen your mode of agriculture, do not be turned from it by low prices or temporary losses; of course, if you have made a mistaken choice, you will have to suffer, but with common sense and ordinary caution, one can always choose correctly. Avoid debt as much as you can; it has done so much harm in the past that the safest rule is not to get into debt. There are cases where money can be borrowed to advantage, such as for purposes of drainage, but be economical and cautious, and strain every effort to pay for it yourself. Subscribe to all the agricultural papers within your means, and subscribe to the one in your own township, state or county; there is no excuse for failing to take one farming paper. Communicate your experiences to it freely; if successful in any way, tell how you succeeded; if unfortunate, relate the particulars, and perhaps some one else will tell you where the mistake was, or you will prevent others from committing the mistakes that you have done. In all your operations be careful to note down or