

## LETTER FROM ARCHDEACON McLEAN.

This letter of Mr. Taylor was submitted by the Department of Agriculture to the Ven. Archdeacon McLean, on the occasion of a visit to Ottawa, in order to obtain his opinion, as a resident, as to the accuracy of the statements contained in it. He replied in the following letter:—

JOHN LOWE, Esq.,  
Secretary Department of Agriculture.

OTTAWA, 10th February, 1873.

"Sir,—In reference to the letter of Jas. W. Taylor, Esq., U. S. Consul at Winnipeg, on the subject of Manitoba wheat, I beg to say that the statements contained in it relative to the average yield per acre, agree fully with the results of my own observation during nearly a seven years residence in Manitoba. There is no doubt at all that forty bushels of wheat per acre can be got in Manitoba, with ordinary care in farming. My observations have reference only to spring wheat. I have not seen any efforts made to cultivate fall wheat, although I know no reason why they should not be successful.

"With regard to ordinary kitchen vegetables I do not think it possible to surpass the products of Manitoba.

"About the first week of October I attended an Agricultural show of the products of the Province, held at Fort Garry. I do not remember ever seeing so fine a display of vegetables anywhere. The potatoes, turnips, cabbages, beets and onions, were of a size and apparent quality, that indicated the very richest soil.

"Let me take the opportunity of reminding you that Manitoba is after all but a very small portion of the Great Fertile Belt of our Dominion.

"The Valley of the Upper Assiniboine, with those of its affluents, the Rapid River or Little Saskatchewan, the Shell River, the Swan and other rivers—and the valley of the Saskatchewan—stretching westward to the Rocky Mountains, contains millions upon millions of acres of soil as rich as that of the best in Manitoba, with a magnificent climate, and every requisite for securing the health and material prosperity of a vast population.

"I can speak with as much certainty of the climate and soil of those portions of the Fertile Belt, that I have not seen, as of Manitoba, where I have lived for years.

"I have made it my business to converse with Missionaries, Hudson Bay Officers, and natives of the country, who have lived for long periods in the various sections. I have carried on this practice for a series of years, taking notes of the conversations. I have compared from time to time one man's statement with that of another, and I am to-day thoroughly convinced that the Saskatchewan Valley is destined to be the great field for emigration.

"The land in the Saskatchewan valley is on the whole very similar to that of Red River, though not quite so level.

"The thermometer falls lower in winter, but as there is very seldom any high wind, the cold is not much felt.

"The severe frost pulverizes the ground, and renders it easily ploughed in spring.

"Wheat grows there in great perfection, and is ready to cut from the middle to the end of August.

"The risk of early frost is chiefly confined to the neighborhood of swampy flats. In general there is but little risk on the higher ground.

"The grasshoppers that from time to time visited Red River, have never yet done any serious damage in the Saskatchewan valley. In 1866 they came to Carleton, but did not spread beyond fifteen miles east. The Red River Valley has been exposed to the grasshopper in common with the prairie lands of the United