

For permanent pasture he would give much greater credit to meadow fescue than Mr. Brown had done. This grass, Mr. L. considered, by far the best artificial grass to sow; it was as hardy as any, would grow anywhere where our blue-top would grow, and in many places where it would not grow, as it will send its roots deeper and live on soils where other grasses will die out. It makes good hay and excellent pasture.

Messrs. Arnold and Lewis are full of useful and practical knowledge. We know of none more able and willing to impart useful knowledge from practical experience in such a mild, pleasing and unassuming manner, as these gentlemen. There appears to be truth, honor and honesty in every sentence they utter, and they always keep to their own sphere unless drawn aside by some unsuitable remark from other persons.

The greatest good that we have noticed having been done at any Convention we ever attended, was many years ago at Ingersoll. This was when the Association was conducted for the interest of dairymen. The Dairy Conventions in the United States have gradually diminished in interest and in numbers. Some have become extinct, and the cause of their downfall we understand has been because partisans, manipulators, or those having some hobby to grind, salt to sell, or new fangled dairy implements to introduce, have generally got the control out of the dairymen's hands, and have used the Association for other purposes prior to the dairy interest.

This meeting will be lauded as one of the great reasons why large grants should be given to foster agriculture; and yet one of the speakers could not refrain from advertising a most popular seedmen on every opportunity. Whether this is courteous to other intelligent and equally respectable seedmen, or part of his duty, the audience was not informed. From seeds to salt, and from salt to high and low pressure engines, and the good intended will be gone. When the Association's money is expended for such a purpose, for trampling down the deserving and honest dealer, whether it be in wares or information, the results are sure to tend to the permanent injury of the Association or party to which they belong.

Western Notes.

[FROM OUR OREGON CORRESPONDENT.]

January 16th, 1882.

This is a great fruit country. I could give you lots of information on the subject of fruit if I had time. In the spring just try grafting pear on the common thorn to see how it will work in Canada; it does splendid here; I graft lots of thorns here every year, and never had one miss yet. I have one that I grafted 5 years ago, that had five bushels of pears on last year; the fruit was Bartlett and of good flavor. I graft them all over my ranch, wherever I find a thorn, and will soon have hundreds of bushels of fruit every year. All varieties of pears grow equally well on the thorn. U. S. A.

English Letter No. 35.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, Feb. 4.

Our winter has continued singularly fine and open until now, when we are having slight frosts and cold winds. There is no prospect now, however, of anything like the severity which we endured last winter. The papers have been filled with paragraphs about the abundance of flowers in our gardens and fields, and the birds have been very noisy, some of them even beginning to build their nests. According to the law of averages we shall have a cold, late spring. As it has of late been dry, field operations have made satisfactory progress. The fall wheat is looking well, and the farmers, having also had a very favorable season for live stock feeding, are in fairly good heart.

Anyone seeing a paragraph in the papers headed "Food Supplies for America," might naturally accuse the printer of an error in substituting "for" for "from." In this instance, however, the printer is right. Something like 2,000 tons of potatoes have during the past few weeks been shipped from Glasgow for American ports. Our last season's

crop was certainly a fine one. The wonder, however, is not so much that we have anything to spare, but that your side of the Atlantic can find a market for our surplus at any price.

Heavy as last year's immigration from Europe was, I hear rumors that it is to be far exceeded by that of the coming season, and there is a marked indication of it in the fact that last month, in the depth of winter, the total immigration from this port was more than double that in January, 1881. From Germany the exodus will be enormous. I am very glad to learn that the movements towards the Dominion continue to be of a most favorable character, which, seeing the vast difference there is between the manner in which the claims of Canada and those of the different land interests in the States are pushed, speaks very highly for the natural superiority of the country itself. On this point I may tell you a little story. A personal friend of my own some fifteen years ago had the immigration "graze" very badly, and, finding some congenial spirits, a little scheme was arranged by which one of their number, who by experience, &c., was deemed the best qualified, should go as pioneer. It was impressed upon him, however, that he should not act precipitately, and above all things should not fix upon any location until he had got as far as Fort Garry, as it was then called, and had judged thoroughly of its capabilities, and the terms on which land could be acquired. I never learnt the full story, but I know this, that the "pioneer" never got any further than St. Paul, where some smart land speculator persuaded him to buy a location in Sherbourne County, Minnesota. Several others of the party joined him there, struggled for a year or two, found nothing in it but hard work, and came home again. Now if the "pioneer" had followed out the original intention he might at that time have acquired any reasonable amount of land at something under one dollar an acre close up to the Fort. The city of Winnipeg was then only a dream in the brains of an enthusiastic few, of whom my friend was one; but had the "pioneer" bought only a hundred acres close to the Fort, he and all his colleagues to-day would have been worth at least \$100,000 each. Let this little instance be a lesson to those who migrate west not to be in a hurry or be led astray, but to carry out fully any scheme they may have laid down as to "spying out the land."

The Archbishop of Canterbury has greatly assisted the emigration; mostly by issuing a letter on the subject. In that letter he referred to the proposed issue of a series of hand books on emigration by the "Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge," and the first of the series, which relates to Canada, has just made its appearance. No doubt it will prove of very material assistance to the Dominion agents in their propaganda.

Those of your dealers and agents who propose purchasing pedigree and other first-class stock here during the coming season must be prepared with well-provided purses. The prices of first-class animals are running up fast, and difficulty will be experienced in securing anything like first-class animals except at long figures. Several Canadian buyers are already in the field, and in Herefords and Polled Aberdeens have secured some fine animals.

My remarks in previous letters about the great advantage of getting sires purchased here into the Dominion in good time for the season appear to have had some weight, for efforts are being made to purchase largely and to send off at once. The Allan steamer "Manitoba" recently left the Clyde with eighty-seven Clydesdale stallions, consigned to an American. I understand that they are sent out by the Glasgow Clydesdale Horse Breeding and Exporting Company, and are by such

noted sires as "Prince of Wales," "Damby," "Ivanhoe," "Lord Byron," "Topman," "Young Lorne," &c. It is to be hoped that better success will attend this shipment than some of the last, when the Company sustained heavy losses by the deaths of "Druid" and other valuable animals. Messrs. Graham and Renor, of your Province, are here purchasing stallions, and, in addition to Clydesdales, have secured a very fine Shire-bred stallion, bred by Mr. Forshaw, the well-known breeder. Other importers are coming forward, but I fear that those who cannot get their shipments off very quickly will find great difficulty in obtaining space, as any steamer carrying over fifty passengers is not allowed, under the regulations of the Imperial Board of Trade, to carry live stock, and as already intimated the pressure for emigrant space is likely to be unprecedented. States buyers have been busy amongst the Polled Aberdeens; one buyer from Missouri having secured forty head. I am told, however, by one "canny" farmer from the north that with some of the "oute" States buyers anything that is black and without horns will pass for the desired article, and that longish prices have been paid for Galloways under the impression that they were the choicest Aberdeen breed.

"Pink Eye," which is a disease not quite unknown in your stables, made its appearance a few months ago at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and after spreading to Glasgow and Birmingham, has at length appeared here, and with disastrous effect. Our heavy cart horses—the finest in the world—are all fed almost wholly on dry food and are kept fat, and on them the disease appears to work with special virulence. In one stable of twelve horses, valued at \$500 each, four died in one night. Many articles and letters have appeared in the papers about the disease, and the consensus of professional opinion appears to be that the disease is of the type of typhoid fever, and that a liberal use of disinfectants in the stables is of the greatest importance.

Large numbers of farmers in the corn growing districts of the east of England are giving up their farms shortly, and one noble landlord, who is the Lord Lieutenant of his county, will, it is said, be "left without a tenant" at Lady Day.

From the United States.

[FROM OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.]

Feb'y 19th, 1882.

One of the subjects discussed by the National Convention of Agriculturists lately assembled in this city was, "Cross-breeding or Hybridizing Wheat." An experienced and educated agriculturist in the Convention said that these experiments in cross-breeding before successful are sometimes continued ten years to combine all the properties in their proper proportion. He said that his note-book shows the fact that some varieties will easily cross one upon another, but will not cross upon others. For instance, foreign wheats cross readily upon ours, but ours fail to effect a cross upon them. Many theoretical writers, he continued, are of the opinion that new varieties of these cereals, called hermaphrodites, can be made by selection. I cannot conceive of a new variety being produced within itself, no more than in-and-in breeding produces a new race. Selections improve, as heretofore shown, but never produce a new type. In making wheats by crossing a strong female should be selected as to stalk and blade, and a strong male as to the grain. In other words the female should have a strong, stiff straw, well glazed and good milling properties; the male should possess the same qualifications with a grain that has at least 12 to 14 per cent. gluten. In conclusion, he said, in the system of