

noticed to rotate violently, in others less so, while in other places it remained quiescent. But on moving along a line supposed to correspond to a subterranean rill, it was continually in motion.

The experiment was performed in the presence of several, some of whom held the wrists of the experimenter, in order to satisfy themselves that he did not deceive them, after which they tried, but had no manifestations, with the exception of the farmer, who, although sceptical, found that he was as good a medium as the other.

The same trial has since been several times repeated, with always like results, and a well was dug in one of the indicated spots, which happened to yield a plentiful supply of water.

Now, I am satisfied that the last person has no intention to deceive, and is as much mystified as any one. If there is any virtue then in the fork, (which I can hardly credit), what are the explanations?

A. D. A.

ARROL, Dec, 2nd, 1867.

ANS.—We are not prepared to give a decided opinion on the above subject. The alleged explanation of the "divining rod" by those who use and have faith in it, is on the principles of electricity. A full discussion of this subject, *pro* and *con*, appeared in the CANADA FARMER of Sept. 15, 1864 (Vol. I, p. 266), to which we beg to refer our correspondent.

Township Societies.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In looking at the proceedings of the late Agricultural Convention, and likewise your remarks on the subject of centralization of Agricultural Societies, as well as hints thrown out from other quarters, I observe there is a tendency to do away with Township Societies, or so to lessen their influence as to make the County Societies the point of attraction. Having been connected with one or both societies for about twenty-five years, I beg to state the result of my experience on the above subject. First, Township Societies (generally) have a larger show and more competitors than the County Societies. Secondly, the Townships will each far exceed the County Societies in number of members. I have been in the habit of soliciting names for the County and Township Societies, and always found that I could get five for the Township more easily than one for the County Society; and if the funds were greater for the Township Societies they would be sustained much better. Thirdly, County Societies are sustained by a few leading agriculturists, and the large mass of farmers stand aloof with the idea that the funds are secured by the few. Fourthly, persons living at some distance from a County town, and not having much to exhibit, would freely exhibit in the Township in which they reside, but will not travel to the County exhibitions. The parties referred to as not falling in with County Societies are far more numerous (and influential too) than is conceived of by any person except residents.

The primary object of the Government grant is to diffuse knowledge, create circulation, and benefit the people generally, and not to bolster up a few to the neglect of the many. If the public funds are to be appropriated for the community at large, I would say take the best steps to secure the much-desired end. Let such information be elicited from Township as well as from County Societies as will enable our Legislators to make such a law as will reach the community at large.

From the above and other facts, I am of opinion that County Societies ought to merge altogether into the Township Societies; and not *vice versa*; then the great and small would meet together on fair and equal terms, and the benefit of the Societies would be more widely diffused.

JOHN BARNARD.

Oakwood, December 11th, 1867.

NOT-TREES MATURING.—Mr. C. E. Whitcombe, of Paris, writes:—"Would you or one of your numerous correspondents kindly reply to the following queries:—How long will it take a Hickory tree,

English Walnut and Canadian Chestnut, respectively, when transplanted as saplings, to arrive at their full bearing?"

ANS.—Through the courtesy of Mr. George Leslie, of the Toronto nurseries, we are able to give the opinion of a practical and experienced gardener in reference to the above enquiry. In Mr. Leslie's opinion, it would require eight or ten years for the trees in question to bear fully. They are all hard trees to transplant successfully, and the English Walnut is quite tender in the vicinity of Toronto.

SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION, MUSKOGA.—A communication from this association only just received, and too late for insertion in the present issue, will be published in our next.

The New Volume.

We commence with this number a New Volume, and beg to solicit the earnest co-operation of officers of Agricultural Societies, and the friends of Agriculture generally, in increasing the circulation of "The Farmer." We believe the Paper is doing a good work among the agricultural community; but to obtain the full benefit of its publication, its circulation must be extended until every farmer in the country is numbered among its readers. Terms of subscription will be found elsewhere.

Bound Volumes.

The present volume of "THE CANADA FARMER" is now ready, consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 350 pages of reading matter in a bound form. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1.30 in all for the volume. Parties desirous of having their Nos. for the past year bound, will please send them to us prepaid, securely packed, with their name and address, together with 30 cents in stamps or otherwise, and we will return them bound. Vols. I, II, and III, containing the numbers for the years 1864, 1865 and 1866, as well as the volume just completed, may also be had in bound form at \$1.30 per volume.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, JANUARY 1, 1868.

Volume Five.

We have much pleasure in again wishing our numerous readers "A HAPPY NEW YEAR" as we address ourselves to the labours and responsibilities connected with another volume of this journal. Amid the many engagements of a busy life, time flies fast, and it seems but as yesterday since the first editorial was indited for the CANADA FARMER. Yet four years have elapsed,—eventful, changeful years,—concerning which, if this were a journal of news, it would be easy to pen a page or two of condensed reminiscences about things in general. We may not, however, invade the province of the newspaper, but must keep within the limits of our own peculiar domain.

That in agricultural affairs these have been years of improvement and progress, is, we think, undeniable. Without going into particulars, or adducing evidence, this may safely be assumed as a fixed and admitted fact. There is an instinctive consciousness of growth and advancement, which is especially characteristic of a young country, and along with this, we are able to point with pride and pleasure to many substantial marks of progress. We might, doubtless, have made more rapid improvement than we have done; yet in the development and application of our resources, our style of farming, the education, home comfort, culture, and wealth of our people, great things have been accomplished. The Canadian Farmer is "coming up." Year by year his occupation commands greater respect, and his importance to the commonwealth is more clearly perceived. This will continue to be the case as our agri-

cultural population rises in the scale of intelligence, and secures for itself a more thorough educational fitness for its duties. This upward tendency of things is replete with encouragement to those concerned in the conduct of agricultural journals, for as the science of farming becomes better understood, such journals cannot fail to be more widely taken and more highly appreciated. It is very pleasant to feel not only that there is an intrinsic interest about one's vocation, but that it has the stamp of usefulness upon it. It has become almost a proverb, that he who succeeds in making two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is a benefactor to mankind. It is for this and similar results of beneficence and blessing that we are at work: to render the wilderness fruitful; the solitary place bright, beautiful and vocal with life; to bring abundance to the lap of our country, and make its homes abodes of peace and plenty. In the prosecution of these beneficent objects there are no clashing interests, and no sources of discord or alienation, as is the case in the advocacy, even from the purest and most patriotic motives, of political opinions. We occupy a region high above the level of the storms that gather in the political sky, and have the satisfaction of knowing that the information we impart, the principles we teach, and the practical directions we give, are acceptable and useful to people of all nationalities, politics and creeds. The CANADA FARMER knows no distinctions of race, party, or sects, and aims to render itself an agreeable, useful, welcome visitor to every household in which it can gain admittance.

Our career thus far has been successful beyond our most sanguine hopes. The circulation of this paper has been larger the past year than during any previous year, and we see no reason why it should not continue to increase. Most flattering expressions of interest and satisfaction are constantly reaching us. Our correspondence enlarges and improves. We have a most efficient editorial staff. The country is prosperous. We on our part shall spare no pains to make this a first-class agricultural journal. Our agents will use every endeavour to push its circulation, and we are confident that our readers generally will do what they can to increase our list of subscribers. We again invite our friends all over the country to lend us their valuable co-operation, especially by sending items of agricultural intelligence, results of personal experience in farming, and free expressions of opinion on all matters of rural interest. As heretofore stated, we are not particular about the garb in which these things come to hand. Of course it is very pleasant for an editor to get a nicely written and well composed piece of copy all ready for the printer, but we do not grudge the labour of putting anything valuable into proper shape. Our friends may therefore write freely. Many practical men, through lack of early advantages, do not wield the pen of the ready writer, and, on this account, shrink from putting their thoughts on paper. We beg such to dismiss their modest hesitation, and do their best. The department of "Correspondence" has been thus far one of the most prominent and useful features of this journal, and we are anxious that in this particular, as in all others, the CANADA FARMER should not only hold its own, but steadily improve. It will do so, if our patrons not only read our pages, but write for them.

MONTREAL VETERINARY SCHOOL.—The Montreal Veterinary School has opened its winter session under favorable auspices. An admirable inaugural lecture was delivered by Mr. McEachren, under whose direction the School is conducted. The subject of the lecture was "Endemic Diseases in Horses." Had space permitted, we should have been glad to have given some extracts from a condensed report which we have received. Mr. McEachren seems well qualified for his important post, and we very cordially wish success to this most useful institution.