

fair proportion of sun and rain. On dry and poor land, the grass suffered in the latter part of June for the want of rain, but on the whole we believe there is a full average crop of hay, of better quality than usual, and generally well cured. Last week we passed through Barnston, Stanstead, and some of the frontier towns of Vermont, and wherever we went the crops looked very fine. There appeared to be more oats sown than any other grain; next in extent we should name buckwheat, corn, barley, and wheat. Barnston takes the lead in wheat. We saw a great many fields of it in that township, and few, if any, would yield less than 15 bushels, and most of them would go a high as 20 or 25 bushels to the acre. The fly does not appear to have injured it at all. We also saw some very fine fields of wheat in Stanstead. Oats, barley and buckwheat all promise large crops. Potatoes look green and healthy, but the reports as to the yield are quite contradictory. From the fact that they are now sold in our market, of the best quality, for 31 to 10 cents a bushel, we infer that there will be a large crop. We have not heard of the rot except in one instance, in the west part of Oxford. On the whole, we have great reason to rejoice in the prospect of an abundant harvest. — *Sherbrooke Gazette*, 20th.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The *Colonial Farmer* says:—From all parts of the country we have the cheering news that the crops are looking well, and should the weather continue favourable, the yield of grain and roots will probably equal that of any other season. In some localities buckwheat will be an exception, the drouth having seriously affected that crop. In some few places the hay crop exceeds that of last year, but taking the Province as a whole, the yield will be considerably below the average.

VERMONT.—The hay crop in Connecticut, the *Hartford Courant* says, is immense, and of the very best quality, one ton being considered equal to two tons of last year's crop. The second crop is cut short by the drouth, but the quantity and quality of the first crop will more than make up for the loss.

NEW YORK STATE.—The rain which fell on Wednesday last, Aug. 17, in Central New York, was so copious, that it insures the main crops, particularly fall seed, and will prove of the very greatest benefit to farmers, some of whom are almost solely dependent upon grass and its fruits in dairy products. Their prospects are now flattering. Even Indian corn will turn out very much better than any one anticipated a few weeks ago. We have never seen a greater change in the appearance of corn than has occurred since the first of August. Late oats are headed heavily. Buckwheat, which appeared to be lost, will make more than half a crop. Potatoes, which have been selling in Syracuse and other central New York towns, at \$3 a bushel, will soon come down from that elevation. The late planted crops will be pretty fair. — *N. Y. Tribune*, 20th.

THE DROUTH AND NEXT WINTER.—It would seem from some observations by Mr. C. L. Flint, Secretary of our State Board of Agriculture, in his last report, that we have reason to expect the next winter a hard one. We might infer so, any way, from the fact that the last two have been so open. But Mr. Flint's views relate to the connection between severe drouths and subsequent cold weather. He says:—"The cold winter of 1641 preceded a summer marked by a sore and long-continued drouth in July and August. In 1748 the drouth was intense in New England, and this summer was followed by so hard a winter that the suffering was intense. In 1749 there was another 'melancholy dry time,' the winter following 'long and dreary,' and the summer of 1762 accompanied by a drouth of terrible severity." The writer further cites the drouths of 1831 and 1856, and the winters following, as evidence conclusive upon this point. We sincerely trust that this will be another instance of the old saying that all signs fail in dry times, but economy and foresight ought to be exercised in view of what may ensue. — *Boston Journal*.

IMPORTATION OF STOCK. That enterprising stock-breeder, Mr. George Miller, of Markham, has just made a fresh importation of Colswolds, Leicesters, Shropshire Downs, and Oxford Downs, together with a choice lot of poultry, and what is believed to be the best shepherd dog ever brought to this country. They came in the ship *Pericles* to Montreal, and were brought by rail, under the charge of Mr. Miller himself from that city, reaching Markham on Tuesday night. The sheep were selected in various places by Mr. Simon Beatty, who, we believe, has the reputation of being one of the best judges in America. The flock consists of 20 rams and 25 ewes. They cost, we are informed, a goodly price, but we trust Mr. Miller will be well rewarded for the enterprise he has displayed in bringing them out. Those of our readers who like to see good breeds of sheep will probably have an opportunity of inspecting this last importation of Mr. Miller's at the Hamilton fair.

Peruvian Government Guano.

WE would call attention to an advertisement with the above heading, which appears in another column, from which it will be seen that Messrs. Duncan, Clark & Scott, of this city, have on hand a small consignment of this highly concentrated manure, and intend to import it direct from the Chincha Islands should they receive sufficient encouragement to render it worth while to do so. The lot now offered for sale has come here by way of Liverpool, and having been doubly shipped and handled, cannot be afforded so cheaply as it could if brought directly here at one shipment. Its price is \$1 per 100 lbs., and it can be had in any quantity that may be desired. Messrs. Duncan & Co. being anxious that it should be extensively tried by the farmers and gardeners of Canada.

This manure has for a quarter of a century been fully and satisfactorily established by the opinions of the most eminent agricultural chemists, confirmed by the results of innumerable experiments of well known practical agriculturists in all parts of the world, not only as the most valuable, (as containing ammonia, the vital principle of plants, in far larger quantities than can be procured from any other source), but also as the cheapest of all manures, natural or artificial, for every diversity of soil and climate, and for all kinds of crops.

Prof. Nesbit, F.G.S., F.C.S., &c., of London, says:—Of all the artificial manures, Peruvian Guano is perhaps not only the most concentrated, but is from its composition adapted to the greatest variety of crops. The chief mineral constituents of plants—lime, magnesia, potash, soda, chlorine, sulphuric acid, and phosphoric acid (the last the most important), are found in guano. Nitrogen, the most valuable constituent of manures, is found in Peruvian guano in great abundance, and in a condition adapted for vegetation.

The experiments of Mr. Robert Monteith, of Carstairs, on oats and on hay—of Mr. Geo. B. Osborn, of Elboston, Gloucestershire, on potatoes—of Mr. Campbell, of the Botanic Gardens, Manchester, on grass—and of Mr. R. Osborn, of Henbury—show the enormous productive power of the application of small amounts of Peruvian guano to each. — *Nesbit's Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry*, pp. 116, 117, 118.

Mr. Kuhlman, the French Agricultural Chemist, experimenting on the action of ammonia on grass land, proves guano to be one of the most important manures for increasing the productive power of our pasture and meadow land. He applied ammonia, alone and combined, and found in all cases the amount of grass or hay produced was in exact proportion to the amount of nitrogen contained in the manure. Guano, containing a large amount of ammonia, and being its cheapest source, must prove of great benefit in the production of grass.

The following table, made by R. Osborn, Esq., of Henbury, shows the relative profit from the application of different proportions of guano.

Guano per acre.	Grass per acre.	Hay per acre.	Increase per acre.
2 cwt.	7 10 0.0	7 0 26	From use of 2 cwt. guano, 17 3.25
4 cwt.	10 1 1 2	9 2 15	From use of 4 cwt. guano, 2 0 1.22
None.	4 12 3 12	1 9 1 21	

Mr. Caird says:—"Increase of produce of nine bushels per acre in 100 acres of wheat, and of straw 10 cwt. per acre, manured with Peruvian guano at 2 cwt. per acre." — *Letter to the "Times," Sept. 10th, 1853.*

Mr. Lewis, of Rothamsted, has shown that two cwt. guano per acre give an increase of eight bushels, with no other manure applied, and in a field of 14 acres, twenty years consecutively in wheat, by increasing the application of guano from year to year, that eminent agriculturist has increased its production from 20 bushels to 56 bushels per acre, and of superior quality.

THE UNITED EXHIBITION of the West York Riding and York Township Agricultural Societies, will be held in the Village of Yorkville, on the 11th and 12th of October next.

Agricultural Croakers Rebuked.

As the farmer, of all men, seems nearest to God in his works, he should be the most faithful and the most confiding. But it has been said—though it may be slanderously—that of all men they are the greatest croakers, and have the least hope and faith. It is too wet or too dry—there is too much or too little produced. If too little, it does not pay, at prices ever so high; if too much, the crops will not reward the harvesting. There are worms and birds, bugs and mildews, and diseases to cattle and vines, named and unknown, that are present or anticipated. There is a story of an eccentric lawyer, Burgess, who was famous in his village for his sceptical notions and also for his wit. He was once listening to a group of farmers—pious men—lingering about the church-door, as is the custom in the country, to talk of the bad weather, the fly, the rot, the drouth and the wet, when one turned to Burgess, and asked:—

"How comes on your garden?"

"I never plant anything," replied Burgess, with a solemn face:—"I am afraid to put even a potatoe in the ground."

"It's no wonder," groaned one of the most eminently pious persons present, "it's no wonder, for a man who disbelieves in religion could not expect to have his labours blessed."

"I am not afraid of failing in my reward for my work," replied Burgess, "but I am afraid that agricultural labour will make me profane. If I planted a single potatoe, what would be the result? Why, I should get up in the morning, look about and growl, 'it's going to rain, and it will ruin my potatoes'; then in dry weather I should say—'the drouth will kill my potatoes'; then I should be unhappy because the rot might destroy my potatoes; in fact, gentlemen," concluded Burgess, in a solemn manner, "I should be afraid to do anything that would induce me constantly to distrust Providence."

Literary Notices.

THE CREAM OF SCOTTISH HISTORY. — This is a little work of 136 pages, by the Rev. William Ferrie, A.M., a second edition of which has just been printed at the *Guardian* office in this city. It is intended as a handy compendium of the leading facts in Scottish History, from the earliest times of which we have any annals, down to the union of the crown of England and Scotland, in the person of James VI. The title page states that it is taken principally from Buchanan's History of Scotland, and Chalmers's Caledonia. An appendix gives a very full account of the extinct peerage of Scotland in 1746.

SELECTIONS FROM CANADIAN POETS, with occasional Critical and Biographical Notes, and an Introductory Essay on Canadian Poetry; by Edward Hartley Dewart, pp. 301; Montreal, John Lovell. To make a clean breast of it, we must confess we had no idea Canada could boast such a galaxy of real poets, and such a collection of genuine poetry as make their appearance in this goodly volume. The compiler states that these selections might have been indefinitely extended, as "an immenso quantity of verse, much of it of high merit," passed under his notice, and great difficulty was felt in deciding what to insert and what to omit. He has certainly exercised good judgment and correct poetic taste in the selections he has made, and deserves much credit for thus bringing together and compacting in a book, a large number of fugitive pieces that are too good to be lost. The Introductory Essay is a well written dissertation on Canadian Poetry, in which the causes which have repressed the poetic fire in this country, and the reasons why it should be cherished and encouraged, are very forcibly stated. We believe in the elevating, refining, inspiring power of true poetry—we are glad this volume has appeared—we sincerely hope it will run through several editions enlarged and improved—and we intend occasionally to pluck a flower from this bouquet of Canadian Poetry, to grace the button hole of THE CANADA FARMER.