

## THE CLIMATE OF THE CRIMEA.

A trustworthy account of the South Crimea is to be found in the writings of Pallas, the great Russian botanist, who lived at Akmetshet, or, as it is now called, Simpheropol. In one of his works the author says:—

“The mildest and most fruitful region in all the Russian Empire is that continuation of valleys arranged in a natural amphitheatre at the southern base of Taurida (the Crimea) along the coasts of the Black Sea. The climate is little different from that of Anatolia and Asia Minor; winter is hardly felt, the primrose and the crocus appear above the ground in the month of January, and the oak retains its green foliage throughout the year. No part of Taurida, perhaps of the whole Empire, affords the Botanist a greater variety of plants, or the husbandman a richer harvest. The ever-verdant laurel grows beside the olive, the pomegranate, the fig, or the date tree, which might have been brought to the country in ancient times by Greek colonists. The manniferous ash, the mastich, the sumach, the bladder-nut, the sage-leaved cistus, the emerus and the arbut of Asia Minor flourish in open air. The walnut and almost every kind of fruit tree thrives in the woods or rather the natural gardens in the valleys. The Caper bush is scattered along the coast, the wild vine reaches to the tops of the highest trees, descends again to the ground, and forms, with the viburnum, festoons and garlands. High hills, masses of rocks, streams and cataracts, verdant fields and woods, and the sea that bounds the horizon, renders the landscape equal to any imagined or described by poets. The simple life of the good Tartars, their cottages cut in the solid rock and concealed by the thick foliage of surrounding gardens, the flute of the shepherd, his flocks scattered on solitary hills, remind the stranger of the golden age. The traveller leaves the people with regret, and envies the destiny of mortals ignorant of war, the frauds of trade, and luxuries accompanied with all its vices.”

Although there is a dash of fine writing in this statement, the facts included in it give the botanist satisfactory proof that the winter of the South Crimea has little to be dreaded. Where the olive and the caper bush, the mastich tree and the fig-tree find themselves at home, there can be no serious cold. The caper bush more especially affords unmistakable evidence of a climate where a hard winter is unknown, and we know from other authority than that of Pallas that it is an extremely common plant: in fact, the capers of the Crimea are a common article of sale in the southern provinces of Russia.

It is undoubtedly true, that occasionally there are exceptional winters. Pallas himself informs us that in 1747 the frost was so intense during the most boisterous north winds, that not only the whole Sea of Azof, together with the Bosphorus, but also a great part of the Bay of Kaffa and several creeks of the Black Sea were covered with ice sufficiently strong to support the weight of persons crossing both on foot and horseback. But this seems to have occurred on the north-eastern coast—the southern shore from Balaklava to Alouptka is sheltered from these cold winds, and it is there that we presume the troops will winter.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.

## Editorial Notices.

SALE OF SHORT HORNS, &c.—We direct the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Col. J. M. Sherwood, whose sale of Short Horns, South Downs and Suffolk hogs, will take place on the 20th of next month. Col. S. is an extensive breeder, of established reputation.

FLAX.—We request the attention of our readers to the excellent article on “Flax” in the present number, for which we are indebted to Wm. Hutton, Esq., Secretary of the Bureau of Agriculture, Quebec.—B.

PROSPECT OF WHEAT CROPS.—After a brief visit to the adjoining townships, we are able to state, that at this season the wheat crops look most promising. We learn that Winter has left the crop throughout Upper Canada in a very favourable condition. Our exchanges from the United States, especially the more Western, represent the prospects of an abundant wheat harvest as never more encouraging.

NOTICE.—The Office of the *Agriculturist* is removed to the building occupied by Messrs. McIntosh & Walton, Agricultural Implement Dealers, corner of Yonge and Adelaide Streets.

THE FEMALE EMIGRANTS' GUIDE, AND HINTS ON CANADIAN HOUSEKEEPING, By Mrs. C. P. Trail, Authoress of the “Backwoods of Canada” “Forest Gleanings,” “The Canadian Crusoe,” &c., &c. Toronto, Maclear & Co.; and sold by all the principal Book-sellers. 1855.

This is a cheap and valuable little work from the pen of a Lady, favourably known in the walks of Literature, and who has resided many years in Canada. The work is adapted to meet the wants of a more numerous class of readers than its title denotes, and we purpose to examine its contents more in detail hereafter. In the meantime, we strongly recommend it as an interesting and valuable production.—B.

MARKETS.—Being crowded for space we omit a detailed report of market prices in this number. There is little coming into the market at the present season, except wheat and Flour, and prices of other products vary so much as the season advances, that the omission will be of little consequence. Wheat has been selling for some days in the Toronto market as high as 11s 3d per bushel. Flour from 50s to 51s 3d.

The Reciprocity Treaty has, no doubt, contributed at least 15 per cent of these high rates.