

# The Ontarian Genealogist and Family Historian.

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## “Yeoman” or “Farmer.”

THERE is a tendency amongst conveyancers to discontinue the use of the good old English term “Yeoman,” substituting for it the word “Farmer,” in deeds relating to land. It is evident that such persons are not aware that the former is a degree higher in the social scale than the latter. It is the pride of Canada that her rural population is composed of yeomen, that is, persons who live upon and cultivate their own land, and not mere farmers who live upon and cultivate the lands of others to whom they must return a rent in money or in kind. From the ranks of well-to-do “yeomen” we may expect to produce, as has already been done, valuable citizens, professional men, soldiers, and statesmen, but we could look for nothing of the kind, unless as rare exceptions, from the less independent “farmers.”

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It is interesting to note the change of ideas and prejudices. A very curious book of a long bygone date is before us, which describing the occupations and pursuits of “gentlemen” (as such) in different countries, and referring to agriculture, says: “Much after that manner the English gentleman that liveth privately doth dispose his life: as one that accounteth it no