

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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December, 1879.

The present number finishes our labors on the fourteenth volume of your *ADVOCATE*. We have attempted to advance your interests in a fearless and faithful manner. If you believe we have done our duty and have given fair play to all discussions effecting your agricultural prosperity, we only ask for an expression of your confidence by a renewal of your subscription. We respectfully request every one that does not wish to take the *ADVOCATE* for 1880 to favor us with a notice to that effect and to STATE THEIR REASONS FOR DISCONTINUING.

We return our thanks to the many thousands who have continuously supported this journal, and can only say that neither pains nor expense will be spared to make it of more use and more interesting than it has been. Our past acts must be the best guarantee of our future course; the public must decide if we have been consistent and true to the standard we have raised—"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

We feel positive that we shall have a great increase this year from letters already received. We trust that every one of you may, in remitting your own subscription, endeavor to add that of one neighbor with your own. It is from the increasing numbers that we have every year been enabled to expend more in improving the paper. We will strive to do our duty, and trust that every reader of the *ADVOCATE* will endeavor to do theirs. Returning thanks to all friends for past favors, and wishing you the compliments of the season, we remain sincerely and respectfully,

The Month.

We have had very changeable weather—from genial rains to a good body of snow and frost, and then to rain again. We had a few days sleighing, which made lively times while it lasted. In some parts the rain was needed. The dampness of the weather has checked the threshing of clover; what has been threshed is yielding a fair return. This open, mild weather is not quite as favorable for the fall wheat as frosty weather would be, as the growth is too luxuriant already.

The weather has been rather warm for the keeping of apples. We find that our snow apples have decayed sooner than usual.

We should recommend our farmers not to sell too much of their rough grain; rather buy a little from a neighbor than run short for your stock. You may require to keep your fat cattle a little longer until full arrangements are made by shippers on our international line to Halifax.

See that the root crops, apples and vegetables have air enough. We think there is more loss sustained by keeping our perishable crops too warm than by freezing.

With this month closes the year 1879. The past season has been one of marked prosperity to most of our readers. The failure of crops in Europe, and a bountiful harvest here has added greatly to your wealth and prosperity. At this season of the year, now you are enjoying so many blessings, would it not be well for you to look around you and see if there is not some poor, struggling, deserving and unfortunate creature in your midst that you could make happy? Is there a poor widow or orphan you could aid? Blessings attempted return four-fold to the giver.

That grasping, mean, miserly, you may say wealthy, being in your locality, is in reality the most miserable, low, degraded, and, in fact, the greatest object of pity. Do your duty. The first and greatest charities begin at home. Perhaps ten cents expended quietly and unobserved near home may be a greater blessing than a donation of \$1,000 that is to appear in print. Try this year to scatter a few seeds of kindness, and you will assuredly reap of the seeds you sow.

There is a crop that you must harvest, which will consist of thorns and thistles of a worse kind than you have ever met with; or the sheaves will be laden with more precious grain than gold can buy.

The United States Embargo on Canadian Cattle.

This step made by the American Government requires a little consideration from every sound legislator on this continent and in Britain. The Americans cannot say we have diseased cattle, nor that Canadian cattle are injuring their stock or market. If it is, as some of the American papers claim, put on just when the ice has not left an

opening for Canadian cattle except through the States, fortunately we have our own railroad to the seaboard. The greatest permanent injury this is to do will fall most heavily on the Canadian breeders of fancy stock, and on American farmers who wish to procure our stock to improve their inferior animals. Both of these will soon find other recourses. Our dealers will in a very short time have their own arrangements made to deal more directly with the consumers in Europe, and our wholesome meat will increase in favor and demand. Some parties, who desire other alterations to be made in the traffic arrangement, try to make it appear a great injury to us, and say that it must be bought up at any cost. We do not think the embargo will do us any harm, but that it will tend much to our profit if it is left on for years to come. Coercive measures are objectionable to true men. We would advise our farmers to be in no hurry to sell. Prepare to keep and feed your stock a little better for a short time. Dealers will immediately try to take every advantage at the present time. Keep your stock; be patient, and you will be no losers if the embargo is maintained permanently, although you may think at first that it is an injury.

Right or Wrong—What is Your Opinion?

The Hon. S. L. Tilley, our present Finance Minister, has been making a tour through most of the cities in the Dominion to ascertain from personal observation and personal interviews the real positions and requirements of the merchants and manufacturers. In this city persons having any improvements in the tariff to suggest were invited to the rooms of the Board of Trade.

As your representative we thought it not right to allow agriculture to be ignored, and as it has been our opinion that cheap corn would be of great advantage to our dairymen and stockmen, and all who desire to enrich their farms and make the most money from the present high prices of butter, cheese and meat, we suggested to the hon. gentleman that the duty on corn be removed. We stated that at the present time it would be especially beneficial, as the Americans had closed their ports against Canadian cattle. This, we thought, would be no injury to us, as we might just as well fatten our own stock and ship them to the British markets. By giving us cheap corn, we should turn many of our farms into factories of meat. Mr. Tilley inquired if we were fattening stock. We replied that we were not, but only spoke for the farmers. Mr. Tilley said he did not think the duty on corn would be altered, as there were many things to be considered; he would give that subject thought. He also informed us that he thought the American embargo on Canadian stock would be removed in a few weeks.

We think this visiting tour of Mr. Tilley's a step in the right direction, and that he is attempting to do what good he can for the country. But we live in hopes that the interests of the farmers may yet in some future day supersede the interests of party and that of cities in our Legislative Halls.