

*To the Editor of the "Old Countryman,"*

MR. EDITOR,—

Goëthe has said, "It is not by attacks on the false, but by the calm exposition of the true, that good is to be done." Taking the above as an excellent rule of action, I have given Mr. Caird's pamphlet, entitled, "Prairie Farming in America," a very attentive perusal; and I think Mr. Caird deserves much credit for the candid way in which he has treated the subject of the British settlers' prospects in Illinois, in very many points of vital importance. The inferences, however, which may be fairly drawn from the facts and figures he has given us, are in many instances calculated to produce widely different results from those which he appears to have anticipated, and no doubt expects his reader to arrive at. Without dwelling upon the report that Mr. Caird is personally and largely interested in the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and their lands, I proceed to examine the merits of his pamphlet.

The prevalence of ague, to which Mr. Caird has alluded in pages 11, 12, 28, 29, 40, 59, 64, 75, 95 and 96, New York edition, especially in pages 95 and 96, where he gives the experience of a leading physician of twenty years' practice, cannot fail to be very appalling to intending emigrants who carefully peruse his work, especially as this physician plainly states that in his opinion "old people ought not to come (to Illinois) at all, as the ague is very fatal to them;" and adds by way of solace, that "Chicago (being an older settlement) was now almost free from ague, that typhus had taken its place in a greatly modified extent, and that pneumonia and rheumatism were the only other diseases that were severe." Candid and explicit as these warnings are, it may be fairly added, that the very great prevalence of ague, and the total prostration with which it is accompanied, often extending even to weeks and months together on these prairie lands, is not sufficiently portrayed. It not

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