

Communications.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

SURPRISE OATS.

As you requested, I now give you my experience and the proceeds of the so called surprise oats. I sowed the pint that you sent me the fourth day of May, on high land and rather light soil, but we had turnips on it last year. I plowed it only once, harrowed the ground and then ribbed it and sowed the oats broadcast, and harrowed them once over. They came up beautiful and very rank, and on the forth of July I saw a great portion of them already out in head, and on the twenty-fifth we cut them, and found that the hot sun had injured them much, as the grains are not so large as those you sent me.

Since then we have threshed, and weighed them, and found them to weigh forty eight lbs. We reckoned it up and found that at this increase it would be over ninty bushels from one bushel sowing. We counted the heads from six grains and found there were 82 heads. This is a true account.

YOURS TRULY,

N. P. CROSBY.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

Sir:—As many of the inhabitants of your part of the Dominion are but little acquainted with what is doing in this part, I purpose furnishing you with a few items which you may insert, or otherwise, as you may prefer.

An American was traveling through this part of the country a few years ago, and saw an old woman hoeing a patch of potatoes in a small garden. He observed a peculiar substance in the soil and enquired of the old woman how her potatoes yielded there. Not at all well, was the reply, there is too much of this mean ising glass in this land. The American soon convinced her of the advantages of a more fertile spot, purchased her garden, and has since opened the mica trade, and is sending this mica to New York, for which he receives \$1 per pound. I now send you a specimen of it. It will not burn, nor has heat any effect upon it. It is used for making Lamp Chimneys, fronts of stoves, and packing of iron safes. There are two carding mills in this vicinity, and strange to say, although Canada is constantly exporting wool, still both of these mills are supplied with wool from the States. The crops in this section are very light. Oats are now selling for \$1 per bushel. Many a farmer's wife had to go to the hay mow in her husband's loft and purloin a feed of hay for her cows through July and August, the pastures too poor to keep them alive. Not more than one farmer in six will have sufficient wheat to serve them till next harvest. Flour, Wheat, and oats are already being shipped to this place. The lumbermen here, talk of importing corn to use in the place of the oats. There is a company from England engaged here in a new

kind of business, it is extracting the tanning qualities from bark ready to commence operations. The Hemlock bark is most sought after, the oak bark is also used.

ALEXANDER.

Peterboro, Ont.

For the Farmers' Advocate.

A CRAZY FOOL.

Mr. Editor—Being interested in the culture of fruit, I occasionally travel to various parts of the country where information is to be obtained. A short time ago, I was at Oakville, between Hamilton and Toronto. Two years ago, a person of the name of Cross left the business he had been engaged in, and concluded he would go into the strawberry business. He planted six acres of strawberries. All the neighbors were surprised at the man planting such stuff as strawberries, wasting the land and fooling money away, and they pronounced him a crazy fool. This year he sold \$3,000 worth of strawberries.

If more Canadians had some of this craziness about them, it might be advantageous.

Mr. G. Leslie of the Toronto nurseries, sold from the eighth of an acre of the Franconian Raspberries, \$130 for fruit alone. More anon.

Arnprior, Sep. 7th, 1868

P.Y.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

FARMERS' SONS.

MR. EDITOR—SIR—There appears to be a great tendency among farmers' sons as soon as they are able to earn a livelihood, to leave the possession of their father and try to get some other occupation. Now I think if (as I believe is the case) agriculture is the bone and sinew of the country, it is surely worth while to know the reason why such a state of things should exist, and, if possible, suggest a remedy. Such is my object in commencing this article. How far I shall succeed, remains for you to judge. First, then, it is a well-known fact, that among a certain class of swells, the farmer is held in supreme contempt, and farmer's sons by associating with them and hearing the epithets applied to those of their occupation, learn to despise the calling they should have honored. Again, A great many farmers appear to have a particular horror of all improvements. The way things were done in their fathers' time is the only way, and the kind of tools that their grandfathers' used, is the only kind allowed on their premises; and if such a man happens to have a smart son, when he comes to see and reason for himself, he becomes disgusted, first with the clumsy, hum-drum, monotonous way he must work, and finally after trying in vain to overcome his parent's prejudice to improvement, quits farming altogether.

Another reason is the fact, that farmers themselves do not think enough of their calling; they may tell you that they are proud of it, &c., but if so, why is it that if a farmer can give his son a good education, he tries to get him into some other profession besides his own, and if he succeeds, is forever talking about "my son the lawyer," "my son the merchant," or as the case may be. However, I think I have gone far enough with causes, I will suggest a remedy, and mind, I don't pretend to say that I know all about it, I only give my opinion. First, endeavor to furnish useful and agreeable amusement to occupy all your children's spare time, so that they will not be associating with those low dandies. For this, furnish them with plenty of useful and entertaining reading, such as history, biography, and works on agriculture and natural philosophy, &c., all of which will be found very interesting. Establish farmers' clubs and debating societies in your neighborhood, and do not think it sufficient that your children attend them, but attend yourself also, and they will take more interest in them. This will give an impetus to their reading, and also cause a desire to commit to memory what is read. I think, too, it would be an advantage to all, both young and old, to have more public libraries established in the country, at least, they are far too scarce in this section.

Secondly. Don't be too frightened to allow your sons to have tools with which they can do their work with ease to themselves, besides being able to do it in a way that it will look as well as their neighbors'.

And lastly, farmers, if you want to give your sons a good education, do so by all means, but make educated farmers of them. Why may not an intelligent and an educated man adorn your calling, as well as that of any other? Why may not a man be an agriculturist in theory as well as in practice? Why not know the science as well as the art of agriculture? but Mr. Editor, I have taken too much of your space already, I must stop short and if you think the forgoing remarks worth their room in the "Advocate," they are at your disposal.

RUSTIC.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

IMPROVED HORSE POWER FORK.

SIR:—Observing a sketch from the pen of that inimitable writer, Henry Ward Beecher, in the last number of our paper, there was one thing that seemed astonishing, inasmuch as he has not found any Horse Power Fork that did its work well. Now I beg to submit to his notice, Gladings improved Fork, manufactured by J. L. Mansfield, New York State, and would venture to state, that his man Tim would not pitch another hour with the hand fork after having tried it, let his reverence wink ever so fast. It is a four tined fork, fit for all kinds of grass, or loose grain, a boy can work it. It is able to pitch one