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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

FOUNDED 1866.

VOL. XX.

LONDON, ONT., DECEMBER, 1885.

Whole No. 240.

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1885-1886.

"Advance" is the proper password. While our eyes are looking forward, our memories may with pleasure and profit turn to the past. The present is a suitable time for reflection.

This will close the last number of the 20th volume of your ADVOCATE. What changes have we seen—what trials and temptations have we passed! Whom should we thank for the past mercies and blessings?

Your ADVOCATE is still left with every stitch of canvas set, with a full head of steam on, and its time-worn and still sound flag unfurled. She makes her regular monthly trips to your homes, to England, Australia, etc., etc. She has been a safe vessel to travel by; twenty years of navigation among the rocks and breakers under the same captain, never calling for a tow-line in the form of a Co., or liquidation, is perhaps remarkable in this age. We are thankful to inform you that we feel as if we had thus far done our duty to you as well as opportunities and circumstances have allowed us. When we look over the country and see so many of the best products raised and plans carried out from information first furnished by the ADVOCATE, it is highly gratifying. We much regret to see the many wrecks visible along our wake. We never commenced the publication of this journal with any idea or attempt to run that old and once the best of agricultural papers, the *Canada Farmer*, off the track. We regret its demise, and there is no man in Canada, nor was there at the time of its death, one with whom we could shake hands

with greater warmth than its proprietor. Despite his eccentricities we believe he had a higher sense of honor in him than is in the average politicians of the day. The decease of the Hon. G. Brown and his paper cannot be laid at our door, nor his own. Had some of our Government officials paid more attention to the remarks that have from time to time appeared in this journal, and

the still more important information we have from time to time telegraphed and written to them, they might be able to say as we can in regard to stock diseases, "these hands are clean." The Provincial Board of Agriculture may have taken some of our criticisms in the wrong light; the criticisms we know were severe, but not more so than the cases deserved, and they were not severe enough to cause them

ting proclivities, which must be expunged from the order before it will attain the power that it might or may have.

The expenditures made by the Dominion and Provincial Governments, nominally for agricultural advancement, but being in reality used for partisan purposes, have been exposed, and must be remedied before good can be accomplished by such expenditures. The demise of

Professor Buckland and his circumstances should be regretted and known to every farmer, as he was the only living person last year that expended his time and means in establishing the first Provincial Exhibition. The dairy, stock and fruit interests have been more profitable than raising cereals for the past few years, and prices appear to indicate that they are likely to be so for some time to come.

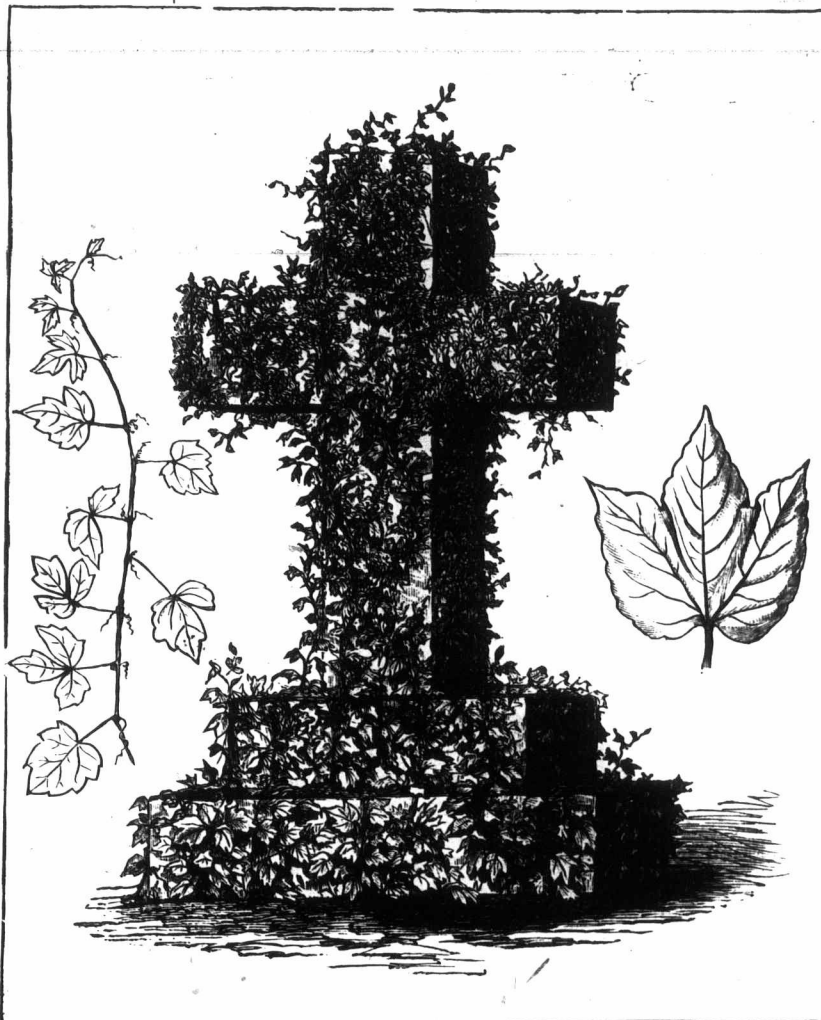
This, the 12th number of the 20th volume, may be the last number that many of you will see. Father Time has swept off many of those that received your ADVOCATE twenty years ago. We must now bury the past, in which all may have erred in omissions and commissions, and hope for improvements in the future. We return our thanks to all that have in any way, by word or deed, aided us in building up the ADVOCATE to its present size and giving it such a large circulation, and trust we have merited your continued support.

SIR,—Please find enclosed the sum of one dollar. I have taken the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for fifteen years, and I think it is every farmer's duty to take it,

as it is the only paper in Canada that works for our interest, fearless of friend or foe. I must say you have made great improvements in it from year to year. I would not be without it.

JONATHAN GRAHAM, Drumbo, Ont.

We are pleased to receive Mr. Graham's encouraging letter, and would say this is but a fair sample of many we are constantly receiving.



AMPELOPSIS VEITCHII, OR JAPAN IVY. See page 354.

to amend their ways. Had they exerted themselves and attempted to have amended their ways instead of hedging themselves in that Association, the Provincial Exhibition and the Herd Books would now be in higher estimation than they are. The Grange order, that we at one time thought would be of great advantage to the farmers, despite our earnest entreaties, would persist in their selfish, boycot-