

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.
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Published in the Dominion.

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The New Year.

From a true friend in England we have received a beautifully-colored, embossed card. On it is a boat tossed on the stormy billows, the sails set and the helmsman steering to the port. Flowers are entwining the scene. The language the flowers may intend to portray may be "Purity, Duty and Firmness." The following words are worked on it:

WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Hopes fulfilled, high motives strengthened,
May this New Year bring to thee;
Then I know, beyond all doubting,
Happy will thy New Year be.

We hope every one of our readers will read them again and again, commit them to memory, and that the third, fourth and fifth words may be your golden text for every day of 1880.

And now a word concerning ourselves. During the coming year, as in the past, the *ADVOCATE* will be found unflinchingly furthering the interests of the farmers of this Dominion. Every improvement that is suggested, and that we feel able to accomplish, will be carried out. The best and most practical writers will add to its columns the most useful information obtainable. The pages of the paper will be—as they always have been—open to subscribers to exchange their ideas on agricultural subjects. In regard to party politics or private societies, this journal will not favor any party or sect, but will speak openly, fearlessly and independently, paying every regard to all that really desire the advancement of the position of the farmers and this Dominion. Should any of our subscribers hold opposite views to those expressed, we shall be happy to hear from them.

Duty.

Every one has a duty to perform. We are all apt to shirk or neglect some duties that we ought fearlessly to perform. This neglect or omission is often caused by what some term policy or prudence, for the sake of gaining wealth or office, or to save themselves from trouble. Every true man can stand boldly on his own foundation and look any man in the face fearlessly. There are some—far too many—who have not the moral courage to act for themselves; they depend on others. There are many who have been induced to join the Grange or other secret societies; they feel that their manhood is partially taken from them, as they are bound by the society to aid it, to support and help its members. Some men depend on the protection and aid of such societies rather than on their own abilities. There are many highly honorable men in these societies; on the other hand, there are just as dishonorable men wearing the garb of secret orders as are to be found out of them. Organizations originally good in principles sometimes become perverted by custom, and deviate from the strict intention of the rules until they become an injury to the community. If the good intentions printed in declarations were carried out; if dishonorable and unfit members were expelled; if dishonesty was not countenanced—then secret organizations would be more respected and a higher tone of morality would prevail in them. Every means devisable has been employed to enrol members; high motives have been placarded and the great benefits have been heralded over the land. Thus other verdant persons are entrapped and freedom is gone—yes, gone for ever from many.

No honorable man can take exception to these remarks; but there are many thousands who have lost their independence, who will strongly condemn our assertions. We know that money and influence have been used to check the spirit of freedom shown in this journal. The subject has given us sleepless nights and considerable anxiety, but strength again revives us and says: "Do your duty and fear naught!"

The great exposure made by the Chief of Police of Ottawa must show you that he is either a liar, crazy or correct. There may be a few slight errors in expressions, but the attempt of the Board of Agriculture to cloak it by such explanations as are published in a political paper must show to the public that that journal throws its influence and shield over the misdoings. Can a fair, impartial discussion be given to such charges when this body selects secret men belonging to their Order to cloak their guilty actions? The farmers of Canada are not all in chains. The Chief of Police must be either bought off or choked off, or the farmers must have an investigation made by men not bound to protect and shield each other's misdoings. The time has come when we should all unite and throw off chains, and act for one great and good

cause—honor, honesty, freedom and good government—a Government that will legislate for the farmer's interest, and not for private and secret services. Every independent farmer should, in selecting officers, endeavor to elect untrammelled and free men—not bondsmen that cannot use their influence except to oblige a secret organization or its members.

If we take erroneous views we do not wish that they should be standing records of error. Every subscriber has a fair and impartial paper in which space is always open for any correction, or any useful hint or information that will be of benefit to the farmers, and what is of advantage to them is of advantage to all in this Dominion.

Toronto vs. the Farmers.

The question will come up at the first sitting of the Dominion Parliament—Are the farmers of Ontario willing to expend two or three million dollars to beautify and enrich Toronto, in erecting new Parliament Buildings, tearing down the Asylum, etc.? The sum may be first put at only half a million or a million, but the thin edge once allowed to penetrate, then look out. The farmers of Ontario that have been in Toronto are quite satisfied that the present building is large enough, healthy enough and good enough for all who go there, or all the good that is done there for the farmers; also, they see that we are continually borrowing money and never paying our debts; that Ontario must pay most of the expenses of the Pacific Railroad, and no one can yet tell how many millions that will cost; that many industrious farmers cannot now redeem their farms; that offices and salaries are being too rapidly increased, and the expenses of housekeeping from duties imposed, etc., are also rapidly increasing. We may add that there are poor people struggling to exist who may die of starvation or be frozen to death, and yet to quiet the clamors of the people and the press of Toronto, to enhance the value of property, and to give fat jobs to poor dependents, the Province is required to spend this large amount of money.

Political papers in Toronto, that profess to serve the agricultural interests of Ontario, advocates the squandering of this money, thus making farmers' interests subservient to that of Toronto, putting the heel of oppression on the independent farmers of the country.

For the farmers of Ontario we would ask that this proposition be postponed until the Canadian Pacific R. R. is completed and paid for. We believe nearly every untrammelled and free Member of the Ontario Parliament (who are farmers) will vote against this improper claim being fastened on our farms.

We receive more letters from the real live farmers of this Dominion than any other journal. We know, notwithstanding the good prices, that there is a hard struggle for many small farmers to meet present payments. Also, there is a strong and increasing feeling that we are paying too much to officials; that either the County Councils or Local Legislatures must be diminished. Perhaps in a few years the people will see that one Parliament will be more economical and more efficient than nine Parliaments for four million poor people.