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THE WHEAT CROP.—MIDGE.—WHAT SHALL BE DONE?

From nearly all parts of the Upper Province we hear the most alarming accounts of the ravages of the "Midge"—that most destructive of all the insect enemies of the wheat-grower. In the counties of Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, &c., it has proved more disastrous this year than ever before, if the accounts that have reached us can be relied upon. In the counties of Lincoln, Welland, and Haldimand, its depredations have deprived many a farmer of his bread. East of Toronto, in the counties of Durham and Northumberland, bitter complaints are also made of its blasting influences. The counties of York and Peel, and the county of Simcoe, so far as we have been able to learn, have escaped with slight injury. There is something remarkable in this apparent immunity. The *Midge* has devastated the wheat fields East, West and South of these counties, but has given them a mere taste of its quality. To what is this owing? The superior culture, the better varieties of wheat, or the geological character of the soil? Geologists tell us that the tract of country embraced within the counties of York and Peel, and part of Ontario, is of a different character from that on either side. Our soil is a drift deposit of immense thickness, averaging about 200 feet. The rock which underlies this drift is called the Hudson River group, or Lorraine shales. The Niagara limestone bounds it on the west in the county of Halton, and the Trenton limestone on the east in the county of Ontario. We do not even give it as our opinion that the peculiar geological character of the soil in this neighborhood has anything to do with the attacks of the "Midge"; still if a particular tract or belt of country is found to have escaped for a succession of years, and if that tract differs geologically from those which suffer, the fact is well worthy of investigation.

It is much to be regretted that no steps have been taken to ascertain exactly and reliably the extent of these insect depredations in Canada; the townships most subject to the pest; the kinds of soil, varieties of wheat, and system of cultivation which it seems to prefer; and on the contrary, those soils, varieties of wheat, and modes of culture which seem to preserve from its attacks. As we have remarked on former