

THE

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TO THE PUBLIC.

In making our best bow to all and sundry who may read these pages, we feel that, to a great extent, we appear not before strangers, but friends and acquaintances. We are not coming out in a fresh character, or with a new role. Our five years' editorship of the *Canada Farmer* renders a formal introduction or long Prospectus quite needless. We may point with a degree of honest pride to the five volumes which contain the chief record of our labours in the department of agricultural literature, and be content to say as we have done in our advertisement: "THE ONTARIO FARMER will embody all the valuable features which have marked the *Canada Farmer*, together with other important and attractive features which will be peculiarly its own. Its ambition and aim will be to STAND AT THE HEAD OF ITS CLASS."

Agricultural editing is to us at once a pastime and a passion. We were predestinated to edit something, having been born, not with a silver spoon in our mouth, but with a pen behind our ear. Some of the happiest years of our life were spent on a backwoods farm. We know all about the rough and tumble, toil and sweat, joy and freedom of life in the bush. Led by a mightier impulse than that of mere preference for a particular vocation, into another profession—the highest and holiest man can fill—we yet retain a quenchless love for country life and agricul-

tural pursuits. Forbidden to make farming our business, we are at perfect liberty to make it our recreation. Unable to farm on land, we can do it on paper. Thoroughly sympathizing with the agriculturist in his toils and aims, hopes and fears, successes and failures, we ask no pleasanter occupation, for our spare time, than that of communicating with him by means of the printed page, wishing him a hearty "God speed the plough," and doing what we may to help him in his tasks, lighten his burdens, and multiply his joys.

Compelled, by circumstances that need not be narrated here, to retire from the editorship of the *Canada Farmer*, we have decided to embark in a venture of our own. This course has been resolved on in no spirit of hostility to the *Canada Farmer* or its publishers. There is a vast field for the circulation of agricultural periodicals among the farmers of Ontario alone, to say nothing of the adjacent provinces now confederated into the Dominion of Canada. The last census, taken in January, 1861, returned no fewer than 131,983 persons in the then Province of Upper Canada, engaged in the cultivation of the soil, and the number is, of course, greater now than it was eight years ago. If every one of the number above cited subscribed for an agricultural journal, as they ought to do, no fewer than TEN periodicals of the same character might flourish as luxuriantly as the