

Robin's Come.

From the elm tree's topmost bough,
Hark! the Robin's early song!
Telling one and all that now
Merry Spring-time hastes along;
Welcome tidings dost thou bring,
Little harbinger of Spring.

Robin's come.

Of the winter we are weary,
Weary of its frost and snow,
Longing for the sunshine chime,
And the brooklet's gurgling flow;
Gladly then we hear thee sing
The joyful reveille of Spring;

Robin's come.

Ring it out o'er hill and plain,
Through the garden's lonely bowers,
Till the green leaves dance again,
Till the air is sweet with flowers!
Wake the cowslips by the rill,
Wake the yellow daffodil.

Robin's come.

Then, as thou wert wont of yore,
Build thy nest and rear thy young,
Close beside our cottage door,
In the woodbine leaves among.
Hurt or harm thou need'st not fear,
Nothing rude shall venture near,

Robin's come.

Singing still in yonder lane,
Robin answers merrily,
Ravished by the sweet refrain,
Alice clasps her hand with glee,
Calling from the open door,
With her soft voice o'er and o'er,

Robin's come.

Our Farming Lands.

HOW THEY COMPARE WITH THE VAUNTED
PRAIRIES.

Editor Daily Telegraph.

Sir,—With your permission I will resume the consideration of the relative value of woodland and prairie for farming.

The reason, as a permanent cause, often assigned for these portions of the continent being destitute of trees—namely, the prairie fires—cannot, for a moment, bear investigation (and it is in this that our own people and Europeans have been deceived). "Remove the cause—the fires—and trees will grow up," say land speculators; and every year the seeds of forest trees are sown, and saplings in thousands taken from Canada are planted, in the vain attempt to produce what nature has denied them, or what would perish even if it existed, except in favoured localities. Fires were naturally suggested to the first rude settlers, to whom the evidences of sight is the chief guide, as the only cause. In many parts of the African, Asiatic, and American deserts and prairies there are no fires; still they are treeless. In other parts fires are as frequent as where forests are permanent, or if burned down, as during last year in parts of Canada, young trees immediately grow up again. The existence of forests over a region of 2000 miles by 1000, and their failure where and on a large scale the summer rains fail, and the arid winds prevail, ought to have suggested the explanation. That the prairie fires, sweeping over extended areas, may have kept trees from some very limited localities, near rivers or on retentive soils, I do not deny. But such exceptions, limited and local, have no weight in comparison to the facts that millions of square miles have remained treeless through all the ages of history, desert and treeless on the borders of other equally extensive areas covered with dense forests. The climate which have produced the two distinct results over these regions have remained permanent throughout all those vast ages, and will remain permanent in the future, unless changes supervene in the entire solar system; but for the calculations of such imaginary phenomena astronomy has furnished no data. We may infer therefore that these conditions of climate, heat and humidity in one case, and heat, aridity in the other, remaining the same, their effects on forests and treelessness will be permanent expressions of those fixed efficient causes. We appear a few thousand years naturally suggested by what has been said, or as applications, limitations, or modifications of the facts and arguments, here adduced.

1. I question whether there is an acre of what a Canadian or English farmer would call good agricultural land between the Mississippi and the Pacific. Climate, not soil, is the great consideration; and the want of rain, the remarkable aridity of the air, saline soil, cold nights, &c., render it impossible that I could be a good agricultural country—even to the extent of one square mile. No doubt as we go north into Minnesota and Wisconsin these deteriorating agencies are less potent. Prairies in high latitudes, where, as in the Manitoba country, the rain fall is greatly in excess of the evaporation, have usually sufficient moisture in the ground with the frequent copious rains, for agricultural purposes.

2. Some cultivated grains have so great a range, north and south, by a proper adjustment to the earlier or later months of growth, that they may be produced in climates quite inferior. But plants, which require the summer for their

growth and maturity, and especially pastures and meadows, must fail in such climates.

3. The cereals, coarser grains, and even maize (a tropical and semi-tropical plant) produce most abundantly near their northern limits. Indian corn has yielded three and four-fold more in latitude 43 deg. and 44 deg. than in its native climates. Wheat and other grains produce twice as much in England as in Central France; wheat, barley, oats, peas, and the grasses yield vastly more in Canada than in the best agricultural districts of the States. The crops, too, are surer, and of better quality.

4. The grasses almost entirely fail—cultivated grasses (pastures)—over the Western prairies, and further South the timothy runs to a coarse cane, and even maize; more to cane than to grain.

5. Wheat will ripen in a summer temperature of 57 deg., with one month of 58 deg., as at Aberdeen in Scotland. In interior climates, as on the Saskatchewan and Mackenzie rivers, it requires a summer of 62 to 65 degs. In England it ripens at a temperature of 60 deg.; at Kasan (in Russia) at 60 and 69 deg. With a temperature above 70 deg., it fails to fill and soon ripens. Maize requires a summer of 65 deg., with one month at 67 deg. (the most favorable climate for both maize and grasses); hence the immense areas in the north-west in Canada favorable for wheat, oats, and peas; barley, rye, the grasses and many root crops going five to seven degrees farther north than wheat.

6. Great Britain, one of the most favored regions for these products, has a summer of from 60 to 65 deg. (London 61 to 69 deg.; Glasgow 60 deg.; Swansea 62 deg.; Dublin 60 deg.; Liverpool 57 to 60 deg.; the central counties of England 62 deg.).

7. Canadian summers necessarily varied over such a vast region, may be stated at 64 to 70 deg. (Halifax 60 to 68 deg.; Fredericton, New Brunswick, 64 to 66 deg.; Quebec 66 to 91 deg.; Montreal 70 to 78 deg.; Ancester, near the head of Lake Ontario, 65 to 71 deg.; the Muskoka country, 100 miles north of Toronto, 68 to 69 deg.; Vancouver's 61 to 65 deg. (about the same as London). The summers of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, and the whole country east and north-east of the desert, are 10 to 15 deg. higher than the best district for the grains and grasses. Illinois has a summer of 74 deg.; Ohio 70 to 84 deg.; Iowa 72 to 78 deg.; Kansas and Missouri higher still. These temperatures are ten degrees too high for wheat, barley, &c., and the cultivated grasses. Hence the beginning of this summer heat is the end of the farther growth of these plants; they immediately wither up. Add to this the summer droughts, and winds, and the other attendants of a hot region, and we have a climate destructive of the temperate zones.

8. "Frustric," it is said, "are ready for the plough; it is easier for a farmer to begin there," &c. If to begin merely were the whole battle of life, the farmer on wooded land is better off during even the first years; and from the superiority of his climate and lands in almost every respect, his position after twenty years' labor, will be incomparably above that of the prairie farmer—I refer to the prairies of the Western States, a region of arid winds, if not rainless in summer.

9. "America is colder than Europe," is an expression we often hear. No language could more loosely and erroneously state the climatic conditions of the two continents. If western coasts are compared with western, and eastern with eastern, we have similar climates; but the summer temperatures on even the eastern parts of America are higher than in the western parts of Europe, as we get a little from the coasts; and the summer temperatures are those of chief importance in a agriculture. Notwithstanding the cold winters in Lower Canada, the summers are from eight to ten degrees warmer than in England and the north of France. In the valley of the St. Lawrence the summers are warm enough and long enough to mature maize far north of Quebec, and maize will not ripen in either England or the north of France.

10. None can point to any country, such as the Western prairies, on the borders of deserts, that have ever had great manufactures, or great accumulations of wealth. Through effects of climate, man never attains the highest development, physically or mentally, and is incapable of sustaining the continuous labor necessary in heavy industries; commerce languishes through want of materials for its support. There, man never reaches the high standard, socially or physically, which he attains in the favorite regions of agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and necessarily the centre of the greatest accumulation of wealth.—J. H.

WINTERING BEES.

Sir,—As you wish your readers to write for the paper, I make the attempt:—I see several modes of wintering bees, and find on enquiry from different parties who have used all manner of quack hives, that they lose their bees to a great extent during the winter. I will give you my mode of wintering bees: I dig a long trench about two feet deep, and lay two poles

along the bottom, sufficient to admit of plenty of air. I place my hives in this trench and place boards along the sides and on the top to prevent the earth from coming in contact with the hives. I make two vent holes by putting in two stove pipes. I have wintered bees for the last four years and have never lost a swarm since I adopted the above plan; previous to trying this plan I always lost more or less every winter. If this is of any benefit to your readers publish it; if not, burn it.

Many complain of the high charge you make for the services of your horse, and considered me a fool for paying double the price others paid. But what is the result? I have just sold a three year colt by "Anglo-Saxon" out of a common mare, for \$300. Some of my neighbors would be glad to get \$100 for their four and five year olds. Success to the Emorium.

R. HESTLEY.

Delaware, May, 1872.

SORE TEATS ON COWS.

Here is an item, attested to by D. B. Watts and others, of Illinois, which is alone worth more to every farmer than the cost of his newspaper for a year, were he to learn nothing more from it. Mr. Watts, as well as some of his neighbors, had cows, in the spring, at the time of dropping their calves, with udders and teats so sore that they would not allow the calves to suck or the milk to be drawn; the cows were suffering, and some plan must be devised by which they could be milked. Finally, he took the quills from a chicken's wing, and cut a small piece from the ends so as to open them, then cut notches or slits near the feather parts to make an opening clear through the swollen teats, and at once the milk commenced to run out, and the cow was relieved; the teats and udder soon got well, and the cows could be milked in the usual way. Other farmers can remember this, and when occasion requires they can try it, being gentle and careful with their cows, and may find benefit from it. Surely, it is worth trying.

A REMEDY FOR THE HEADACHE.—Dr. Warburton Beggie, (Edinburgh Medical Journal) advocates the use of turpentine in the severe headache to which nervous and hysterical women are subject. "There is, moreover," he says, "another class of sufferers from headache, and this is composed of both sexes, who may be relieved by turpentine. I refer to the frontal headache, which is most apt to occur after prolonged mental effort, but may likewise be induced by unduly sustained physical exertion—what may be styled the headache of a fatigued brain. A cup of very strong tea relieves this form of headache, but this remedy with not a few is perilous, for bringing relief from pain, it may produce general restlessness and—worst of all—bavish sleep. Turpentine in doses of 20 to 30 minims given at intervals of an hour or two, will not only remove the headache, but produce in a wonderful manner that soothing influence to which reference has been made.

An intelligent correspondent expresses in the following paragraph a view which we have seen advanced by several good farmers:

"I am a decided advocate for milking cows up to calving; if the milk gets thick throw it away, but milk the cow. Always give her to understand that giving milk is her business, and keep her at it late and early. A cow that gives a moderate steady yield up to calving is far preferable to one that is very flesh immediately after calving and then dries up before six months have passed."

You all know the Golden Rule. "Do unto others as you would wish them to do unto you." Here is a rule which is almost a part of the Golden Rule, but which we will put by itself, and, because of its value, call it the "Silver Rule": "Think and say all you can of the good qualities of others; forget and keep silent concerning their bad qualities." You cannot conceive how much such a course will lighten your own happiness, and raise you in the esteem of your companions. Did you ever think any more of a boy or girl because he or she found fault with others? Never call your school mates or pay-mates ugly or cross to their faces or behind their backs. If they are ugly, or stingy, or cross, it does not make them better for you to talk or think about it, while it makes you over to dwell upon the faults of others, and causes your own soul to grow smaller, and to become like the fool bird that prefers carrion for food. Rather tell all the good you can, and try to win a good quality of your mates.

The Farmer Feedeth All.

My lord rides through his palace gate,
My lady sweeps along in state,
The sage thinks long on many a thing,
And the maiden muses on marrying;
The sailor plies the foaming sea,
The huntsman kills the good red deer,
And the soldier wars withouten fear;
But fall to each, what'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

Smith hammereth cherry red the sword,
Priest preacheth pure the Holy Word,
Dame Alice worketh broderie well,
Clark Richard tales of love can tell;
The tap-wife sells her foaming beer,
Dan Fisher fisheth in the mere,
Aye courtiers ruffle, sit up and shine,
While pages bring the Gascon wine;
But fall to each, what'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

Man builds his castles fair and high,
Wherever river runneth by,
Great cities rise in every land,
Great churches show the builder's hand,
Great arches, monuments and towers,
Fair palaces and pleasing bowers;
Great work is done, be't here or there,
And well man worketh everywhere;
But work or rest—what'er befall,
The farmer he must feed them all.

FOR FORT WILLIAM.—The steamer *Frances Smith*, which has been changed this season to the route from Collingwood to Fort William, left on Wednesday of last week on her first trip to the latter place, having on board about 300 passengers; 15 span of horses; 30 head of cattle; and about 400 tons of general freight; this, on the second trip of the season to Fort William gives some idea of the number of emigrants which may be expected to leave for Manitoba during the coming summer. The steamer *Cumberland* left for Lake Superior last Friday night, carrying a full freight and upwards of 600 passengers, a number of whom are going to the Gold and Silver mines of Thunder Bay and Shebandowan, either to prospect or work on claims already taken up.

GOOD FEEDING.—Feed liberally. Feed at regular times. There is no profit in poor animals of any description. They eat more and fare worse than animals liberally fed, and they return less profit. See that the food is clean and palatable. The hens on the hay-mow and the dirty feet of men and children running over hay and green corn fodder on the barn floor, do not improve it or render it more palatable to a cow of nice taste, and if she seems dainty under such circumstances, blame yourself and not her. The waste and want of economy in some barns from these and other causes is often enormous. A really good and judicious feeder of stock is rare. Feeding is an art to be acquired by the most careful experience and observation, and few attain proficiency in it.

London Markets.

GRAIN.	
White fall Wheat, per bush—	\$1 40 to 1 44
Red fall Wheat—	1 38 to 1 41
Spring Wheat—	1 35 to 1 39
Barley—	50 to 54
Potatoes—	60 to 64
Oats—	36½ to 36½
Corn—	58 to 65
Peas—	50 to 50

Burlington.

Leaving the East and arriving at Chicago or Indianapolis, how shall we reach the west? The best line is acknowledged the C. B. & Q., joined together with the B. & M. Railroad by the Iron Bridge at Burlington, and called the Burlington Route.

The main line of the Route running to Omaha, connects with the great Pacific roads, and forms to-day the leading route to California. The middle branch, entering Nebraska at Plattsmouth, passes through Lincoln, the state capital, and will this year be finished to Fort Kearney, forming the shortest route across the Continent by over 100 miles.

Another branch of the B. M. diverging at Red Oak, falls into a line running down the Missouri through St. Joe and Kansas City, and all Kansas. Passengers by this route to Kansas see Illinois, Southern Iowa, and Missouri, and by a slight divergence, can see Nebraska also.

Lovers of fine views should remember the Burlington Route, for its towns "high gleaming from afar" its tree-fringed streams—its rough bluffs and quarries its tree-fringed oceans stretching over the prairies further than eye can reach.

Land-buyers will be sure to remember it, for they have friends among the two thousand who have already bought farms, from Geo. S. Harris, the Land Commissioner of the B. & M. R. R. at Burlington, Iowa, or among the four thousand home-seekers and pre-emptors who last year filed claims in the Lincoln land office, where "Up to him is rich enough to give us all a farm."