

Through Canada to Detroit.

By the Editor of Moore's Rural New Yorker.

Detroit, Mich., July 24, 1868.

DEAR RURAL:—You know it was night when we came railing away from the sanctum. Know further, then, that we had occasion to feel somewhat grateful for the shadows which hung around us. They were a source of comfort so to speak: they prevented us from seeing the dust. It filled the air like a cloud; we breathed it into our nostrils until we could breathe little beside; it threatened to permeate our whole being. If 'twas a blessing in disguise, it could hardly have looked prepossessing, and we were glad 'twas invisible. Would that all afflictions were alike invisible!

We came hither via the Grand Trunk Railway from Buffalo, and were, therefore, several hours under crinoline government. The Grand Trunk has the reputation of being rather a rough road, and our experience upon it was an agreeable surprise. It is very little, if any, rougher than our own Central. It runs through a section of country evidently not long redeemed from the wilderness, but fairly productive, and capable of well repaying good husbandry. Crops there present a good appearance. A large yield of hay has been cut, and the harvest of oats, peas, barley and winter wheat is just begun. The last named is in fine condition, having escaped the ravages of insects. Spring wheat is considerably affected by the midge, and will harvest light.

Canada is Canada still, though they attempted a metamorphose by calling it the Dominion. And it will always be Canada so long as it is not a part of the United States. Union with the bluenoses of Nova Scotia will never work miracles for it, especially as Nova Scotia is an unwilling party to the alliance, and already prays Parliament for a divorce. The Grand Trunk has done much for the Canadians, but as yet the thoroughfare is a main artery with fingers compressing it, and does not send a full and hearty vital current through the system. The customs officers are the compressing agencies; Canada would breathe freer with unrestrained communication with our folks. But a main artery hampered is better than none at all. What will Canada do if the G. T. be taken away? Those English capitalists who furnished money to build the road have waited long for dividends, and their patience is almost exhausted. Sitting far away in their London counting rooms they threaten to deprive the Dominion of its railroad. "We built the road," they say, "and Canada must pay us for it." Perhaps they mean it. Why don't Commodore Vanderbilt buy them out? He could do it at a liberal discount now, and might make quite a speck. (*Ad interim.* Send a copy of this down to the Commodore.

The suggestion may strike him favorably, and we thereby become a recipient of a corner lot or two.)

At Sarnia we leave the Dominion, by ferry, across the lower end of Lake Huron, and—presto! we are in another country. Everything betokens the change. Cultivation is better. Things look more thrifty. The Peninsular State is richer for having an Uncle Sam; Canada is poorer for her Queen and her Parliament. (Understand that this is not to go into the Ladies' Department. We shouldn't want our fairer readers to see that little bit of ungallantry.)

FRUIT GARDEN.

Where new Strawberry beds are required to be made that will bear well the next season, the first runners of the season should be selected, and layered into small pots. In about three weeks they should be cut from the parent stem, and left to a separate and independent existence for a few days. After preparing the ground properly for their reception, the pots should be well watered and the plants turned out into the spots designed for them. They will then grow finely the present season, and bear surprising crops of fine fruit the next Spring.

A warm sandy loam is the best for a Strawberry bed. A low and damp one is, of all the most objectionable. Though warm and dry in one sense, it should be rendered capable of retaining moisture in the driest weather, and this can only be perfectly accomplished by draining and subsoiling. If the latter is done three feet deep, all the better.

Unless in a very sandy soil, a very heavy dressing of stable manure is objectionable. Wood ashes, ground bones, and matters of a mineral nature are far more advantageous.

Strawberries for forcing are treated in pots, as we have already described; but instead of being transferred to the open ground, when well rooted in small pots, are repotted into five or six inch pots, and these latter plunged in the ground to their rims in the spot the most favorable to Strawberry growth.

After having grown well, and when they show signs of having formed a good strong crown, they are to be taken out of the open ground and gradually ripened by withholding water,—taking care that it is not done so suddenly as to make the plants wither, or they will suffer much. Towards winter they can be set in a cold frame and covered with dry leaves for a slight protection from the frost till wanted. Many commence to force at the beginning of the new year, when they are brought into the greenhouse and must be set near the glass. A high temperature is fatal. 45° to 50° is sufficient for a few weeks, and 55° to 60°, when the fruit is fairly set. They love to be frequently syringed,

and guarded against Red Spider, which is their greatest pest. Where there is not the convenience of a greenhouse to force Strawberries, they may be had a few weeks earlier than usual by making a piece of ground slope to the south-east, planting out as already described, for garden culture, and then setting a glass frame over them. The nearer the frame and glass can be brought to the soil, the better and earlier will the crop be. Protecting from frost in winter also adds to the earliness of the crop. The earliest variety to be had in the locality should be employed.—*Gardener's Monthly.*

Farmers if any of you can spare time to attend to a Strawberry bed, you can raise them without hot houses or glass covers. They are not only a delicious luxury, but wholesome nutritious food, such as the human system requires. In New York not more than half the meat is consumed during the Strawberry season as before it. They are a paying crop for the farmer's family, as they tend to save a doctor's bill. Get plants from some reliable source. Be sure and get a kind that will yield a crop, and is fit to eat without sugar, if you intend to use them at home. If you intend to sell them, and live a distance from market, you will have to take a harder and more acid Strawberry. We purchased plants in this vicinity paying 25c per plant, but find we have not the Strawberry represented. In fact the kind we want is not to be found in this County. We have made some investigation in this Strawberry business. We will let you know more about it in due time.—[Ed.]

STATE FAIRS--WHERE HELD.

The following are the times fixed for the State Agricultural Fairs in the several States, named for 1868, and the places where held:

- Wisconsin—Madison, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- Indiana—Indianapolis, Sept. 28 to Oct. 3.
- Iowa—Clinton, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- Maine—Portland, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- Minnesota—Minneapolis, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- New York—Rochester, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- Pennsylvania—Harrisburg, Sept. 29 to Oct. 2.
- Illinois—Quincy, Sept. 21 to 26.
- Ohio—Toledo, Sept. 21 to 25.
- Kentucky—Louisville, Sept. 8 to 12.
- New Hampshire—Manchester, Sept. 15 to 17.
- Vermont—Burlington, Sept. 8 to 11.
- New England—New Haven, Sept. 1.

PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.

- Quebec—Montreal, Sept. 14 to 19.
- Ontario—Hamilton, Sept. 21 to 26.
- Western Fair—London, Sept. 29 & 30.
- North Riding of Oxford—Woodstock, Oct. 5 & 6.