



## Salt in Hydrophobia.

To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—On the 16th March, 1868, the following communication appeared in the *Daily News*, of Montreal, since which time it has been copied into the *Globe*, of Toronto, and various other papers in this Province, and several communications have been sent to other papers confirming the correctness of my sanguine anticipations that an antidote has at last been found for "rabies." I will beg it of you as a great favour if you will insert this, my letter, with the original communication to the *Daily News*, in your journal. The following is the letter referred to:

"Some months ago I was greatly interested in an account given to me by a friend who had been engaged in carrying lumber from Belleville to Oswego, U.S. The gentleman referred to is Capt. Paul, of this town, who is a very intelligent and well-informed man. Capt. Paul, some two or three years ago, while lying with his schooner at Oswego, discharging his cargo, observed a dog which belonged to a friend in the same trade, running at large, having apparently been left behind by his master. Capt. Paul took hold of the dog, with the intention of carrying it back to his master at Belleville, but the poor dog, having been feeding on any offal he could find in the streets, had become half famished and savage, and bit Capt. Paul's hand severely in the forefinger, and it soon swelled up. At first he did not anticipate any serious consequence from the wound, and had no reason to apprehend anything like "Hydrophobia." But the swelling gradually increased, and extended to the whole arm. A broad red streak extended on each side of the bitten finger up to the shoulder on the outside, and to near the armpit on the inside. The reader may readily suppose that Capt. Paul, though a brave and resolute man, became alarmed. Not knowing well what to do, the idea, I believe providentially, occurred to his mind, that "salt" might be an antidote in his case. He at once took a sharp pen-knife and scarified the finger all around the wound, which bled plentifully. He then moistened some common salt with vinegar, and rubbed it into the wounds perseveringly. As I said before, the red streaks had already extended to near the shoulder on both sides of the arm. Gradually the red streaks disappeared until they were confined to the hand. The application of the salt and vinegar produced a copious discharge of watery fluid from the wounds in the hand. He then applied a common flour poultice for some time, until he thought the danger was past. After reflecting on this occurrence for some time, I recollected a circumstance related to me by my wife, who is well known in England and Canada from her writings. Mrs. Moodie informed me several years ago, that a lady of her acquaintance, while on a visit to a friend at Gosport, opposite to Portsmouth, was severely bitten by a rabid dog in one of her hands, just as she was about returning in the ferry-boat to Portsmouth. The hand gave her much pain, but on immersing it in the salt water, the pain was greatly abated. In this manner she kept her hand in the salt water all the way back to Portsmouth, which is about a mile from Gosport. By this means the salt water proved an effectual antidote to the poison of the wound from the dog's teeth. Immediately after biting the lady, the dog bit a coachman and a boy, both of whom died of *Hydrophobia*. On referring to Dr. Watson's "Lectures on the principles and practice of Physic," p. 369, I find the following words while speaking of a case of *Hydrophobia*:—"One day, as Mr. Abernethy was going round the hospital, he saw and spoke to the boy, who said he thought himself getting well, but that he had that day an odd sensation in his fingers, stretching upwards his hand and arm." Going up the arm, Mr. Abernethy saw two red lines, like inflamed absorbents—they

doubtless were so. He affected to make light of the matter, ordering a poultice, and recommended the boy to take some medicine. Early the next morning Mr. Abernethy visited the ward, pretending he had some other patient there whom he wished particularly to see; and when going out again he asked the boy in a careless tone how he was. He said he had lost the pain, but that he was very unwell, and had not slept all night. Mr. Abernethy felt his pulse, told him he was a little feverish, as might be expected, and asked him if he was not thirsty. The boy said he was thirsty, and that he should like some drink. When, however, the cup was brought, he pushed it from him. He could not drink. In forty-eight hours he was dead."

This statement agrees so exactly, in many particulars, with Capt. Paul's description of his case, that I thought it worth while to transcribe it. The facts just stated point so decidedly to salt, or salt and vinegar, as an antidote to Rabies, that I would fain hope that the subject may be more thoroughly investigated by others better qualified to judge of the matter. I remember in England, during the prevalence of "Cholera Asiatica," in 1832, that by injecting salt and water into the veins of the arm, a brief abatement of the symptoms took place.

J. W. DUNBAR MOODIE,  
Late Sheriff, County Hastings."

Belleville, 1868.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We sincerely respect Col. Moodie's earnest desire to extend the benefit of what he considers a valuable discovery, and cheerfully give publicity to his communication, though we cannot feel the same confidence as he entertains in the efficacy of the remedy proposed.

FALL SOWING OF GRASS SEED.—John Sutherland, of Blanchart, writes:—"As we have a stiff clay soil to contend with, it is often very difficult to get grass seed to catch in spring in dry weather. I have been thinking if deferring sowing until fall would not answer better, as soon as the crop comes off."

ANS.—Under the circumstances, and indeed in many localities, Fall sowing would be advisable for grass.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 1, 1868.

### Iowa Agricultural College.

SOME two years ago, we laid before our readers an account of the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, England, accompanied by an engraving of the building and surroundings. We have now much pleasure in submitting an illustration and account of a similar institution which has come into being in the young and flourishing State of Iowa. All must admit that the establishment, so early in its history, of a College presenting such noble proportions as that here represented, speaks volumes as to the intelligence, forethought, and energy of the population of the State just named. Such an example ought not to be lost upon the farming community in our Province and Dominion. We trust it may have some effect in stimulating us to effort in a like direction.

The idea of an Agricultural College for the State of Iowa was first broached in 1858, when a bill was passed appropriating \$10,000 towards the undertaking. The Trustees were appointed and empowered by this bill, who in 1859 purchased a farm of 648 acres and commenced to make improvements thereon. At the Legislative session in 1860, a vigorous effort was made to repeal the bill passed in 1858, on the grounds that a majority of the tax-payers did not demand the proposed institution, that the cost of such an enterprise would far exceed its benefit to the State, and that it being a time of monetary embarrassment, it was needful to exercise all possible economy in the expenditure of public funds. This effort came very near being successful, and was only defeated by the skilful tactics employed by the lead-

ing friends of the College, and by the wise resolve to ask no further appropriation from the public treasury until the dawn of more auspicious times. In July, 1862, Congress made its truly wise and liberal appropriation of land for the creation and endowment of Agricultural Colleges in the several States of the Union. Under this Act, 240,000 acres fell to the share of Iowa. The condition of the grant was, that any State accepting it must erect the necessary College buildings without using any of the proceeds of the lands for that purpose, within five years from the acceptance of the grant. On this condition Iowa accepted her share of the grant, and within the prescribed time erected the noble edifice represented in the accompanying illustration. Thanks to the stream of emigration which has been steadily flowing westward, and to the judicious manner in which the agricultural lands have been leased, sold, and the proceeds invested, the College is already realizing a yearly income of \$30,000. With the necessary buildings erected, and this handsome endowment secured, all is now ready for organization, and the choice of President and Professors. To do this in the wisest and best manner possible, a Committee was last year appointed by the Board of Trustees to examine into, and if need be, visit other Agricultural Colleges already in operation, and report as to the course that should be resolved on. This Committee appears to have done its work very thoroughly, visiting most of the institutions in existence in the United States, from whose organization and plan of working anything useful could be learned. Their investigations extended through twelve States, and besides actually visiting a number of Colleges, they had personal interviews or correspondence with many of the leading agriculturists and horticulturists in various parts of the country. The observations made, and the conclusions arrived at by this committee, are embodied in an elaborate report, from which we quote the following outline of a plan of organization which they recommend to the Board of Trustees.

"First.—That we need at least a President, four full Professors and two Assistants, in the organization; and that the President should be chosen at as early a day as practicable, that he may assist and advise in filling up the Faculty, and fitting up the College building.

Second.—That the following studies shall be included in the course of instruction, viz.: Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, Forestry, Horticulture, Fruit-growing, Animal and Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology, Geology, Mineralogy, Meteorology, Entomology, Zoology, Veterinary Art, Plain Mensuration, Leveling, Surveying, Book-keeping, Practical Agriculture, Landscape Gardening, with such other branches as may be added by the Faculty and Trustees.

Third.—A system of instructive labour on the farm, in the garden, orchard, nursery, and in such mechanical trades as may be from time to time provided for.

No student to be exempt from labour except in case of sickness or physical disability. The labour to be made instructive by being conducted and taught in the most thorough and systematic manner. The students to be paid by the hour a reasonable compensation, which shall be applied upon board and other necessary expenses.

Fourth.—The Boarding Department to be under the supervision of a Steward selected by the Trustees, who shall make all purchases, furnish the supplies for the table, keep the accounts of his department under proper guards, and have general control of everything pertaining to the Boarding Hall.

Fifth.—The admission of students to be on the basis of one or more for each Representative in the popular branch of the General Assembly; to be selected in a manner to be fixed hereafter, subject to such examination of qualifications as to education and moral character as may be determined by the Trustees and Faculty.