

intelligence abroad amongst our farming community to enable them to "hold their own" with the non-producers, and to protect themselves from an unscrupulous class of "cormorants" with which they sometimes have to deal.

And having this in mind, I would like to have seen the CANADA FARMER, in its prospectus, come out and say, that although it "knows no distinction of race, party, or sects," it would still be the acknowledged champion of the farmers, as against the non-producing class, for the simple reason that we have no paper in the country (aside from yours, perhaps) so far as I know of, which is not bound up in city interests as against those of the country. In the publication of market reports, the reporting the appearance and state of the crops during and before harvest, in speculating upon the probable price of produce, and, in fine, in any argument in which the interests of producers and non-producers move in diverse channels, it is easy to see in what direction their sympathies tend.

There is no use in shutting our eyes to the fact that there are times when the interests of the two classes do not run in one and the same direction, and such being the case, it is obvious that a farmer's paper (if your humble servant be allowed to take so much upon himself as to say it) should be something more than neutral.

PLAN OF A BARN.

On the same page (8) is a generally very well arranged plan of a barn. But, by all means, have a basement under the building, for stabling, root, and manure cellars, &c. One-third of the roofing, the most expensive detail of farm buildings, is saved by having the structure raised a few feet above the surface, which will give room for all the purposes of stables, sheds for shelter of stock, root cellars, manure cellars, cisterns, &c. If not upon a side-hill, bridgeways could be built up for driving in upon the floor above. He who builds a barn, now-a-days, without a basement beneath, is assuredly not wise.

IMPROVED CHECK AND DRIVING REIN.

The Improved Check and Driving Rein, illustrated on page 5, would seem to be a "good thing" for checking hard-mouthed and unruly horses. I first came across this Improved Rein last spring, on board one of the steamers which then plied between New York and Roundout, on the Hudson river, in the hands of an agent, who was describing and "holding forth" its merits to a knot of idlers who had gathered around him. It was astonishing with what ease a man (holding to the pulleys marked c in the engraving) could be "hauled in" by the exertion of a few pounds weight on the reins. I believe the contrivance to be a valuable invention for the purposes intended.

COMMENTATOR.

Ont., Jan., 1868.

Advice to Landlords.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Any one promoting the increase of good agricultural works among the farmers of Canada will be doing a great service to his country, and be a true patriot. How many thousands of farmers who never read an agricultural paper, and as a consequence, never improve. Having a tenant of this kind, the thought struck me, that it would be well to subscribe for the CANADA FARMER and give it to him. I at once did so, and the marked improvement I have observed since getting the paper encourages me to continue, and I would say to all landlords, go and do likewise. Try it. You will find it pay—even if it only adds a load or two of manure to your farm every year.

ONE OF THEM.

Collingwood, Feb. 20, 1868.

A MINNESOTA CORRESPONDENT.—"B. F. Perry" writes as follows all the way from Rochester, Minnesota: "A number of farmers here think of sending to Canada for seed (spring) wheat. Could you inform me what part of Canada you would recommend us to get it from, and the kind you think the best? We want a pure article. I think I must have the CANADA FARMER. I have seen a few copies of it and I like it very much."

ANS.—Your best plan is to send your orders to Canadian seed merchants. J. Fleming & Co., of Toronto, Messrs. Bruce, of Hamilton, or Messrs. Sharpe, of Guelph, can, no doubt, supply you. Write to any, or all of them, for information as to the varieties they can furnish, and the price.

POULTRY MANURE.—A gentleman residing in Toronto, and who keeps about thirty fowls, wishes to know if he can dispose of the droppings to gardeners or farmers. We should recommend him, if he has no garden of his own, to apply to some of the market gardeners in the neighbourhood, who would probably be glad of the manure.

"PRINCE ALBERT" BREED OF PIGS.—"An inquirer," writing from Dalston, asks "what is the difference between the Windsor or Prince Albert breed of pigs and the ordinary Suffolk?" We cannot specify the exact points of the breed in question. They are much esteemed for early growth, and maturity and quality of pork; they are somewhat smaller in size, and considered finer in texture than the common Suffolk.

CHINESE SUGAR CANE.—A correspondent from Ottawa asks our opinion of the value of *Sorghum saccharatum* as a forage plant. We have used it both for forage and sugar-making in Illinois, but should think it scarcely hardy enough for the neighborhood of Ottawa. It is easily affected by frost. We should prefer Indian corn, as producing a larger amount of fodder, quite as nutritious, if not so sweet, as the sugar cane. We know of no parties, except the seedsmen, who would be likely to furnish the seed.

A QUERY CALLED IN QUESTION.—Our correspondent "V. C.," from Lakefield, contends that he has the highest authority for the nomenclature employed by him in reference to the Thrush family which he assigned to the *Merulinae*, adopting, in this respect, the classification of Sir William Jardine, and other distinguished naturalists. The term *Turdinae*, which we suggested by way of query, is employed to designate the sub-family of the Thrushes by Professor Hinks, Dr. George Gray, and others. It is a matter in which there is not yet any ultimate authority. The same correspondent clearly points out an error in Mr. Fairgrieve's enumeration of Canadian Song Birds, among which he mentions the *Golden Oriole*, in place, no doubt, of the *Baltimore Oriole*, the only bird of the genus seen in Canada.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, MARCH 2, 1868.

The Profits of Farming in Canada.

ENQUIRIES have come to us recently, both from Canadian and from English correspondents, as to the true status of farming among us, and the prospects it holds out to the emigrant from the old country. A large proportion of those who leave the shores of Europe for the new world, pass through this portion of the continent, and try their fortunes in the United States. This preference arises partly from the lower price of land in the States, and the liberal policy of the American Government in holding out the inducement of free grants to actual settlers, and partly also, we believe, from erroneous notions in regard to the profitability of farming in the two countries. On this subject we intend to institute a comparison in some future article; at present, we would look at Canadian farming without reference to the advantages or disadvantages to be found amongst our neighbors. Some of our correspondents have replied to the request that was recently made through this journal, and have written frankly and ably on this important subject. Others, not directly replying to the questions, have supplied information which will help the enquirer to form his opinion; and we trust that many more will yet furnish reports of their experience, so that the stranger who comes amongst us seeking a home, or our friends across the Atlantic who have decided on leaving their native land, and are anxiously enquiring where to turn their steps, may find in these pages a safe guide in making their decision.

The rapid progress of the country, as we have said before, affords unanswerable evidence of the Canadian farmer's success, for agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity; and when we look at individ-

ual cases, we find innumerable examples of men, who with little or no capital at the outset, have made themselves a comfortable home, have educated and provided for their families, and have gained a position of independence and comfort, if not of wealth, which might satisfy the ambition of any reasonable man. Some men have failed, it is true, from unfitness for the work, or from untoward circumstances, or because they belong to that class who would be poor and unsuccessful in any calling. But the number of these, in proportion to those who make a comfortable living by farming, is far less than the number of those who become bankrupt in commercial or professional avocations. An old resident of one of our towns remarked recently, in passing a grain and produce store, that in that particular locality, every grain buyer had failed in the long run, though some of them had done well, and made large sums in certain years, while the whole Dominion cannot show a more thriving rural population than is to be found in the immediate neighborhood to which we refer, and which in its general aspect reminds us more of old England than any other part of the country with which we are acquainted.

In estimating the profits of farming, account must be taken of many other items besides the cash in pocket at the end of the year; especially is it necessary to bear in mind the large amount of actual maintenance that a farm supplies, which the inhabitant of the city has to purchase, and which, indeed, consumes the greater portion of the earnings of business. The farmer's fields, garden and stock yard, really furnish nearly all he needs; and with these he cannot be reckoned poor, even if he has no large account at the bankers, and not even any great amount in the purse at home. "To get a living" is about all that a large portion of the community can effect; and we venture to say that more farmers than business men put money by after all expenses are paid. Successful business may be, and no doubt is, a quicker road to wealth than farming, but the chances of success are far less sure in the former than in the latter calling.

It may be objected that these are general assertions, and the enquirer would rather have some specific instance as evidence in point. Such, we think, is furnished by letters in these and previous issues; and we have at hand some recent notes furnished by a friend, who has special opportunities of becoming acquainted with the circumstances, and tracing the career of farmers in all parts of the country. Some of these will, perhaps, put the matter of success in a clearer light, besides showing the intelligence and practical skill which are brought to bear in each case. The first is the testimony of one whose business as a grain-dealer qualified him to form a sound opinion. This man has lately returned from England and Ireland, his native place. He was himself formerly a servant man to a family in this city, but is now wealthy. He says in reference to his visit:—"The crowds of Irish laborers emigrating from Queenstown (Ireland) to the States, astonished him more than anything else that he saw; they fill the streets and quays, and are all bound in one direction viz.: to the various ports of the United States, and not to Canada." He regrets this much, as we are suffering so for want of labor. He tried to turn many, but without effect. To the States they were bound, to join brothers, sisters and friends, and to the States they would go. "Oh," said he, "until I went home again, I did not know what a fine country our Canada is for the poor laboring man, who can and will work. I have met people returning from every part of the globe to the old country—from Australia, British Columbia, New Zealand, and all the British Colonies; none had done so well as they might have done, and might do, in Canada. This is the place for the man who can and will labor."

Take next the testimony of a farmer who has had unusual difficulties to contend with, the difficulties of