

any of it touch the branches or leaves; then shake each bush suddenly and smartly, and the caterpillars will fall into the lime; if the bush be not shaken suddenly, the caterpillars on being a little disturbed will take so firm a hold as not easily to be shaken off. After this is done, sift some of the lime over the bushes; this will drive down those which may lodge on the branches. The caterpillars ought to be swept up the next day, and the bushes well washed with clear lime water mixed with urine: this will destroy the caterpillars, that may still remain, and also the aphides, if there be any on the bushes.—*Gardener and Florist.*

### Communications.

#### REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS ON POTATO CULTURE AND THE WEEVIL, (SO CALLED.)

Your communication came to hand the 7th inst., and it was exceedingly acceptable; it contained the desired information as you would perceive on the receipt of my letter dated the 5th inst. I have no further suggestions to offer respecting the potato, than that it should in my opinion be cultivated in as dry and early a soil as possible, in order that its season of growth may be correspondent to its native locality, otherwise I fear the tuber will not be so dry and palatable. This is why, in my opinion, the selection of the wild potato should be as far south as possible in order that its organization may be better adapted to this climate. With these few remarks respecting the potato, may my position be pardonable while I make a few suggestions in order that your valuable attention may be drawn to the important subject—the weevil, an insect that has power to be quite fatal to the wheat crops of this province. A number of classes or species of the animal kingdom we are quite familiar with; but of other classes again we are as ignorant of, and the object of their existence and the relation they hold to each other, as if they did not exist, or we were never affected by them. Hence the evil effects of the weevil and its sudden appearance in this province seeming so mysterious. While otherwise, that is if we had a proper knowledge of the weevil, and the relation it holds to other insects—we would in my opinion not only be able to account for its appearance in this province, but would be able to prevent in a great measure its evil effects. According to my limited knowledge of the animal kingdom to which the weevil species belongs, there is not an animal but either preys or is preyed upon by some other class of animals; which being true indicates the possibility of there being a species of insect that preys upon the

weevil in this Province. Admitting that insects do prey upon each other, the harmless position of the weevil in Europe compared with this Province is quite reasonable to the benevolent order of nature and also makes quite apparent that an increase of knowledge gives an increase of power, and that evil experienced is simply the effect of misimproved privileges. Please as soon as convenient give me your opinion respecting the suggestions here made respecting the weevil.

I was much pleased with the report of the Board of Agriculture, particularly as you have imported some potatoes.

JOEL DUNSMORE.

Noel, April 24th, 1865.

**ALDERNEY BULL.**—A correspondent informs us of an Alderney Bull, which is for sale near Halifax; price £15. [We shall be glad to furnish further particulars to any individual or society wishing to purchase.]

**CANADA FARMER.**—Mr. S. Selden writes to us in behalf of the *Canada Farmer*. He has consented to receive orders for the publication, and is naturally anxious to correct an error in regard to its price, &c., which occurred in our notice of the *Farmer* last month. The *Canada Farmer* is published fortnightly, being issued on the 1st and 15th of each month, and the price is one dollar per annum, and thirteen cents for postage. It is a remarkably cheap as well as ably conducted periodical, and may be read with much profit by our Nova Scotian farmers.

**AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.**—We have several communications on this subject. Once for all let it be understood by Agricultural Societies participating in the government grant that the Board of Agriculture has not sanctioned, and will not sanction, the purchase, distribution, or sale of hay forks, manure forks, or such like implements. The funds of societies must be devoted to the encouragement or advancement of agriculture, not to the personal advantage of agriculturists.

**BULL FOR THE MAXWELTON SOCIETY.**—The Maxwelton Agricultural Society has purchased a superior Bull, which took a prize at an exhibition held in the county of Sydney in the fall of 1863.

JAMES W. PATTEN.

**PROPOSED PLOUGHING MATCH AT HALIFAX.**—A joint ploughing match has been partially arranged between the Dartmouth and Western Halifax Agricultural Societies.

### Miscellaneous.

#### DEATH OF COL. THOMSON, THE LEADING FARMER OF CANADA.

It is our painful duty to record the death of this truly estimable and useful man. This sad event occurred very suddenly on the morning of April 20th, the intelligence of which has cast a deep gloom over a wide circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the Province. Mr. Thomson, after taking breakfast as usual with his family, left on foot to attend a meeting of a sub-committee of the Board of Agriculture in Toronto, and after having walked about three miles he was seen to grasp the fence, and almost immediately to fall; life became extinct in a few minutes. The cause of this awfully sudden visitation was probably apoplexy or the bursting of a blood vessel in close relation to the vital organs of the brain or heart. Mr. Thomson had enjoyed his usual good health till within the last few months, during which time the symptoms were not at all regarded as of a serious nature; and on the very morning of his death, he said, before leaving his family, that he felt better, and left in cheerful spirits. In half an hour he was a corpse! thus affording another illustration of the oft-quoted words: "In the midst of life we are in death."

Mr. Thomson was a native Canadian, having been born in Kingston, in January, 1794; he had consequently recently completed his 71st year. His father emigrated from Scotland to the then colony of New York before the American Revolutionary War, on the outbreak of which he took up arms in the service of his king, and came on military service to upper Canada, where he subsequently settled. Being a man of energy and sound judgement, he obtained for himself a good position in society. He married Miss McKay, of Quebec, also of Scotch origin, and had several sons, one of whom, Mr. Hugh Christopher Thomson, became a member of the Provincial Parliament, and was the first Warden of the Provincial Penitentiary, but died before he entered on the duties of his office. The elder Mr. Thomson's family, after some time, left Kingston and settled in the neighbourhood of Toronto, which was then only an insignificant village.

The subject of this notice during the troublous times of 1812, when only a youth, volunteered his services in defence of his country, and soon won the confidence and esteem of his superiors for his high soldier-like qualities. He received a commission for valiant services at the battle of Queenston Heights, and was selected, with Ensign Charles Denison, to receive the silk colour presented to the regiment by the ladies of York, now Toronto. He was for many years a full colonel of militia, and Col.—Commandant of the Fifth Military District of Upper Canada.

But Col. Thomson was better and wider known as a steady and energetic promoter of the most important and peaceful art of agriculture than for his military services. He was one of the most active of the few who formed the Home District Agricultural Society,—one of the earliest in the Province,—and he served as the President or Vice-President thereof for more than twenty years. He stood in a similar relation to the Provincial Association, and became its first President in