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OUR FIRST HALF-YEAR.

The first half-year of a journal's existence is critical, and forms perhaps the most important epoch in its history. During that period its character becomes developed, and its fate may be augured. First impressions, if unfavourable, may possibly be outlived and corrected, but it is a work of time and difficulty, achieved, we suspect, in but rare cases. The competition among periodicals is so keen now-a-days, that some *eclat* at the start seems necessary to success in the end.

This being the case, we have every reason to be encouraged with the result of our first half-year's efforts. The **ONTARIO FARMER** has met with such a reception, and secured such a patronage, that it may be regarded as established, and its future looked at with the most confident anticipations. Commenced at short notice and under many difficulties, it would not have been surprising if its early history had been marked by a hard and long-continued struggle. Happily, however, there has been nothing of the sort. The bold and independent tone of our inaugural address in the January number, has been responded to with hearty both by subscribers and advertisers, and the result is that, so far from having to tell the farmers of Ontario that we are benevolently publishing a journal for their benefit, at a dead loss, we have the pleasure of informing them that the **ONTARIO FARMER** has paid its way, as every honest thing should

do, from the beginning. We stated at the outset that it must do this or be abandoned. Having performed the one condition of its existence, its continuance and prosperity may be regarded as certain.

Though we have by no means come up to our own ideal of what we would like this journal to be, there is, we think, no reason to blush in view of the half-volume which is already before the public. In some respects, we have done more than we expected and promised; in no respect, that we are aware of, have we done less. Those features of this journal which are peculiarly its own have, we believe, secured general if not universal approval. We refer to the departments of Emigration, and the Mechanic Arts; the Talk with the Young Folks, the page of Music, and the royal octavo size. In one of these respects we are not quite satisfied with our work, though we have kept faith with the public to the letter. Our music arrangements are not yet to our mind. It was our intention to be able, either by ordering plates of music publishers, or by having a fount of music type at command, to issue any choice new piece of music that either we or any of our readers might desire to send ringing through the land. We have not yet accomplished this, but hope to do so before long. Meantime, we have issued during the half-year six choice pieces of music, half of them secular and half of them religious, any or all of which Jenny Lind her-