

STARTING CHILDREN IN THE WORLD.—The following extract from the works of a living writer, is replete with sound philosophy and common sense. It is well worth the attention of parents :

"Many an unwise parent labours hard and lives sparingly all his life for the purpose of leaving enough to give his children a start in the world, as it is called. Setting a young man afloat with money left him by his relatives, is like tying bladders under the arms of one who cannot swim; ten chances to one he will lose his bladders and go to the bottom. Teach him to swim and he will never need the bladder. Give your child a sound education and you have done enough for him.

"See to it that his morals are pure, his mind cultivated, and his whole nature made subservient to the laws which govern man, and you have given what will be of more value than the wealth of the Indies. You have given him a start which no misfortune can deprive him of. The earlier you teach him to depend upon his own resources the better."—*Masonic Register*.

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We have had frequent opportunities of seeing the lands of the district of Montreal, and we can safely say that in no country with which we are acquainted, can there be found so much land of the best quality, without any mixture of bad, as in this district. A large proportion of these lands are of so excellent a natural quality, as to be suitable for every agricultural purpose, if under proper management. We have lately ridden over a range of country for nearly twenty miles, without seeing one acre of bad land, but all of the very best quality of soil, and fit for producing wheat and grass in the greatest perfection. All the country requires to make it produce abundantly, is the application of skill and capital in its cultivation. It is melancholy to see the beautiful farms we have in this country producing not one-third of what they might do, and our best educated inhabitants, both in town and country look on with perfect indifference at this state of things, and appear to think our cities must thrive and flourish independent of the country, and if it were all a neglected waste. It is, however, a most fatal mistake, and it would have been proved so before now, since wheat has failed, only for the large expenditure of the British Government in the payment of the army, for public works, &c. &c.

It is from these funds that the merchant's accounts have been balanced lately; but these funds will not always continue to be available to the same extent as at present, and we should prepare in time to have other resources to supply the deficiency. The natural capabilities of the country are amply sufficient to make up all deficiencies, if they were properly made available. We have often endeavoured to prove that to do this, would produce more of general good to the inhabitants of Canada, of all classes, than can possibly

be effected by any other means. Unfortunately, the educated and wealthy cannot be induced to interest themselves in the matter by any argument we can advance. On the present occasion, we shall, supported by the authority of a most able writer, Mr. Alison, submit a few observations for the consideration of those classes, and we trust they will obtain some attention. We do this because we see the improvement of the agriculture of the country neglected, while all possible interest is manifestly felt for the improvement of our cities, as if cities could maintain themselves independently of the country. If our cities had manufactories for the encouragement of domestic industry for home consumption, our capital might be very beneficially employed in that way, provided we raised in the country what we could give in exchange for these manufactures. We do not, however, say that domestic manufactures are necessary for our prosperity, but we will say that it is necessary we should produce here what we can dispose of to customers out of Canada, to enable us to purchase and pay for what we import. When capital is laid out in agriculture, it not only yields a return to the farmer, but also communicates a degree of fertility to the soil, which renders it capable of producing an enlarged produce, and furnishing the means of maintaining an additional number of inhabitants for an indefinite period. But when expended in manufactories or commerce the same wealth only yields a return for the capital employed, with a profit for the use of the employer; there is no permanent addition besides this, made to the wealth of the country, which may afford the means of maintaining an increased number of individuals. For example, if £100,000 be expended in trade or manufactures, at the end of ten years it may be increased to £200,000, besides having maintained the capitalist, and those whom he employed, in comfort during that period. But beyond this there is hardly any addition made to the permanent wealth of the country or to the means of supporting an increased population. But if the same sum be employed in agriculture, besides maintaining the farmer, and those employed by him, in comfort during the period of its employment, and doubling itself, as it would in the hands of the manufacturer or merchant, it makes a permanent addition to the capability of the soil, which ever after yields a greatly increased revenue, which may be beneficial to the whole country. If the merchant withdraws his wealth from its employment, he may have amassed a fortune for himself, and has probably the means of doing so to the persons who were engaged in his traffic, but he has left no permanent source of wealth to the country. But if the farmer withdraws his capital, besides what he may have realized for himself, and having given the means of doing so to his dependants, he has left a great addition to the fertility of the soil, which is a lasting cause of opulence to the country. This is the true difference between the permanent encouragement given to population by the employment of capital in agriculture, and in commerce and manufactures. In