

should be dug for the stakes as in most soils in the wet season, the stakes can be driven with a large beetle, afterwards, the top rail is laid on the blocks, and the fence is finished. Once in two or three years or more, the frost may have raised the stakes so that they will require driving down, and being sharpened will easily be done; the length of the stakes is such that they will bear driving down several times after being rotted off.

The field gate is partly taken from the "Close-barn Field Gate" in Loudon's Architecture, with several improvements in the hinges and bars of my own, the pillars may be a foot square oak, set 3 feet in the ground; the gate should be oak; the hanging stile is 4 inches square, the falling stile 3 x 4 inches and six feet long; there are only six horizontal bars one inch thick and six inches wide,—the three top ones taper to 4 inches at the falling end; there are 4 upright bars 5 inches wide, and a brace of the same thickness, which are rivetted on at their ends and nailed at the middle; a flat plate of iron bent over the ends of the hanging stile and rivetted on; a common crook hinge goes into a hole in the plate at the ends of the stile; the upper crook goes through the gate pillar with a nut; this kind of hinge is simple and prevents the gate being blown off the hinges. The latch is an upright bar with a rivet going through one end, and a mortice in the gate and is kept out by a spring behind it. Near the upper end a staple confines the spring and latch. This kind of upright latch and always latch should the gate settle; the whole will be easily understood by every one from the sketch. The gate and pillars should be painted, the neatness and durability will well repay the cost and trouble. The expense of the fence described will not be perceptibly more than the ordinary wretched fences that are every where to be seen in Canada and the United States. The additional ease and security farmers would enjoy from the consciousness that their cattle, horses, &c., could do no mischief, or escape or become treacherous by bad fences, were they to adopt universally this cheap system of fencing, would produce incalculable benefit. I have known old men to live and die on large well cleared farms without having such an improvement as a gate; many times they would have to keep a sentry boy to watch the gap while teaming. I will venture to say, that any farm with a dozen gates and fences such as this, would look respectable, without any other improvements. The trouble in making the sketch and penning this article, will be far more than compensated, could I see farmers generally adopting this method of fencing, which is cheap and practicable, as a substitute for a more expensive one when rail timber will have become scarce. I cannot refrain making some further remarks, although somewhat irrelevant to the present subject. It is much to be regretted that Canadian farmers in general, are so

narrow-minded and indifferent about taking an agricultural journal, or expending a few dollars a year for agricultural and other useful works of the best kind, which in a few years would, if followed up, amass a very useful and entertaining library, that would repay the money so expended with more than compound interest, by expanding the mind and intellect. Every farmer, rich or poor, should be a subscriber for one or more agricultural papers, which are as important, or more so, to himself, than a political paper, because it tends to throw light and knowledge upon his own immediate profession; sometimes a single article or receipt is worth ten times more to him than the year's subscription; and I may say, the above article on fences and gates, so fully explained, will be worth more to many farmers than the price of the *Cultivator*; and as there are only two or three agricultural papers in Canada, they should meet with the generous and universal support of the farming community, that the several proprietors will spare no talent or expense in making them highly respectable and useful. The *Cultivator* now comes out in a convenient form for binding, and is much improved, and I think quite equal to the "*Genesee Farmer*." It contains a great many useful practical hints well suited to this country farming, and which is often found in the editorial department; and I perceive considerable useful matter is gleaned from different American papers,—this is well,—and no doubt much valuable information may be got from British works on agriculture, and which should be studied by all professed farmers, yet, they contain many theories, which, if carried out, would either be too expensive or not suitable to the climate or other circumstances of this country.

One day I asked a rich farmer who sometimes raises a thousand bushels of wheat yearly, to become a subscriber for the *Cultivator*.—reader, what do you think was his reply? "Why," said he, "I take the *Christian Guardian*, and can hardly get time to read that." There are positively many farm-houses in Canada where you would find little else than the *Christian Guardian* or a Methodist Hymn-book; the reader must judge for himself of the contracted state of such a man's mind.

It is also necessary for farmers to become well acquainted with the political and commercial affairs of their country, which can only be done by taking the papers, and reading books on political science; until this is generally done, the farming interest will become secondary to the interests of other classes, which should not be in an agricultural country; and when agriculturists become better informed, they will be better enabled to judge and control tho' they send to represent their interests in the popular branch of the Assembly,—in short, the country requires a more enlightened public opinion.

Yours, very respectfully,

FRANCIS G. WILLSON.

Sa'tfleet, July, 1847.