

fail alike, until he has found by hard-earned experience that the first great means of success in Canada or elsewhere are self-denial, economy and self-endurance. And here the single laborer has an infinite advantage of all others in Canada. It is no self-denial to him; he knows no better, and all is "hope" from the first little bit of success; but until that first little bit of success comes, until he ceases to feel all strange and foreign to him that he encounters here, or elsewhere, he will feel desolate and disappointed; but it will soon end, and success is, I am certain, more easily attained here, and with less capital, than anywhere else.

C.

A Walk Over my Farm on the Queen's Birthday.

(To the Editor.)

SIR,—I thought a walk over the farm on the 24th of May quite as amusing and considerably more likely to be profitable than to harness up the horses, drive to the neighbouring town, see such sights as were to be seen, drink such drinks as were to be had, and return home at night tired and weary, as well as disappointed. Of course, if there were children or ladies to be taken for amusement or recreation, the case would be materially altered; but in my case there were not any such considerations to prevent my giving a day to thinking about my farm, and adapting means to ends. My crops were almost all in, and the day was splendid, so calling my faithful colley, off I went. Passing through a piece of woods, containing about 17 acres, that I left to shelter the homestead, I noticed the quantity of feed there was even at so early a date as the 24th of May. In many places the grass was twelve inches high. The woods have been pastured for some years, and are now very productive, almost as good as any ordinary pasture land; and that reminds me to call your attention to the advisability of fencing in pieces of wood land. The underbrush was cut out some years since, and I now feel the value of having done so. The shelter, shade, and pasture, amply remunerate for the outlay. We turn our cows in at night, when they are brought from the distant fields, and as a natural consequence, they are on hand early in the morning to be milked, before being again driven into the road that leads to the rear of the farm. I really think, if farmers generally would look a little ahead when destroying the forests, they would oftener leave a belt of woods to surround their homesteads. I have often noticed, on a cold bleak day in winter, the extraordinary difference between the sensations of cold with and without the belt of woods in question. Of course, thermometrically there is no difference, but to the feelings of comfort there is a most material advantage within. The woods we have left extend on three sides of a twelve acre field, in the centre of which the homestead is situated,

the idea being ultimately to appropriate all the unoccupied land within the enclosure to plant with apple trees and as a garden. Frost does not affect the crop of any kind one half so much when sheltered from the north, west and east storms, as immediately on the opposite side of the woods. I have often seen it, and carefully noted the effect. The beauty of the woods all round the house, forming such a pleasant ramble for your little ones during the heat of the day in summer, is another great advantage. Lumber being no great object, we have constructed a walk on one side of the clearing, facing the west, but still within the clearing. This walk gives opportunity for exercise to those of the household who want some active out-door walking, generally quite impossible to get without it. So, on the whole, I look on the woods as the most agreeable and almost the most profitable part of the farm. When we first left them standing, we found the mosquitoes an annoyance, but lately we gave a little time to cutting a ditch through some wet parts, and at a very trifling cost all stagnant water was entirely removed, and the mosquito nuisance greatly abated. There is also something worthy of note in this remark. Many people think digging a ditch through wet parts of woods a most serious undertaking. Such, indeed, was my own feeling, before I went at it from necessity. I had a considerable piece of land attached to the farm that was swampy and wet. An Irishman who worked for me undertook to dig about one and a half miles of drain through the wet places at 25c. a rod. It cost certainly some money, about, if I recollect right, \$120; but it drained and rendered fit for cultivation 150 acres of land, which, without drains, would have been comparatively useless, as it was intersected with swamps, covered with black ash timber, and during wet weather the water was often six inches deep, and sometimes much more. After ditching no more trouble existed. I ditched in the woods before chopping or clearing, and thus saved two dollars an acre in the clearing, the contract price of which was for the undrained portion \$16 an acre, and for the drained parts \$14; that is, reckoning the job in sections of ten acres, part of which was in the first instance cleared (and drained afterwards) at a cost of \$16 per acre, while that drained first, before chopping and clearing, was completed for \$14 an acre. Whilst on the subject, I would advise any one who contemplates bush draining not to dig too deep, as it founders in and is all labour lost. A ditch four feet wide by one and a half to two feet deep, the sides of which are sloped at an angle of about 30°, will do the work just as well, according to my experience, after the first year, as one of four feet wide and three feet to three and a half feet deep.

I find the space for which I can venture to trespass on your columns so fast disappearing, that the rest of my walk, and

what I saw and remarked, must be deferred to another article, written at some future time, when rest to the body may be obtained by using the mind. I have often thought that if farmers would think more, communicate their thoughts to others, and receive theirs in return, read and communicate with agricultural journals and newspapers, there would be one great step gained towards improving the rising generation in the woods, where of necessity communication with each other is not so readily obtained as in cities. I shall be happy to record occasionally my own personal experiences in farming, if agreeable to your readers.

C.

Crops in North Oxford.

To the Editor.

SIR,—Having travelled more or less in all the townships in North Oxford within the last four weeks, I am prepared to say that the hay crop will scarcely be an average of past years. The old meadows have a poor show, and new seeded are only good in spots. The cold more than the wet has been the cause of the lateness of the spring, crops which at the present time present anything but encouragement. And, to add to the trouble, spring grain has suffered more or less in every township from the ravages of black and white grubs, and also the wireworm. Many persons have gang-ploughed whole fields and re-seeded. Others have sown over in spots, and harrowed in. The general opinion is that the dampness of the season has something to do with their unusual activity; but I find them the most troublesome in loose soils, especially rotten sward, and seldom in firm compact land, irrespective of moisture. Farmers are getting alarmed at their increase, and are looking about for a remedy. Those in the neighbourhood of lime-kilns would do well to lime heavily; and where salt is cheap, that article might be used to advantage. The apple-tree caterpillar has done but little damage this year, but it is doubtful whether fruit will be abundant. The frost and chilly winds have proved injurious, especially with grapes. Early vegetables have got nipped occasionally, and corn looks sickly.

Now let me give you a glimpse of a brighter picture: First, fall wheat, though not heavy in the straw, is generally regular, and the indications of a fair yield are manifest. Flax looks remarkably well, and seems to have but one enemy, laziness—that is, it requires too much manual labour to become a favourite crop, unless labourers should become more plentiful.

There are two other branches of farming that must yet find more favour with farmers, simply because they pay, namely, grazing and cheesemaking. Of the first I will only say, from my observation, I find that those who systematically and perseveringly raise stock, ultimately increase their possessions, and