

CANADIAN PASTORALS.

Since the Georgics of Virgil, pastoral poetry does not seem to have been sufficiently attended to. A great many poems, and some by the best authors, partake of this character, but have not been written as such, and can scarcely be called pastoral poetry. Of this kind are Pope's "Windsor Forest," and Gray's "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," and many others. We have also in our own times, more or less of poetry of this description, such as the "Ode to an Expiring Frog," a "Poem written for the occasion of the Œcumenical Council," but none of these comes up to the standard which we should like to see introduced among us.

It is because we consider it especially adapted to this "Canada of ours,"—adapted to the native genius of the land,—that, like some modest youth who essays to lead a round of applause in an audience, by a hesitating stamp of the foot, or clap of the hands, we put forth a few specimens of this kind of poetry, hoping that others, more gifted, may take up the strain, and enrich the too barren literature of our country by productions of this nature, which shall be read wherever poetry is appreciated.

The author at first labours under a sense of the inappropriateness of the subject to the season of the year, but as the imagination travels as fast as the scenes in a play, faster by far than the "*winged flight of time*," he hopes shortly, pastorally speaking, to "*catch up*."

SCENES IN THE COUNTRY.

Where springs the daisy from its lowly bed,
There let our wandering footsteps idly stray;
By lovely nymphs and kindly dryads led,
Who work for love and honour,—not for pay.

What time the sun with thirsting fiery tongues,
From blade and petal laps the glittering dew;
And morning air reanimates our lungs,
And quicks our steps, and makes our noses blue.

Spring, gentle Spring, has come, and o'er the land
Diffuses wide a sense of liberty:
Each crackling frosty chain, and wintry band
Around these *diggings* you no more may see.

The grateful kine, from many a byre and yard,
Forth to the meadows roam with joyous will,
To seek the well-trod paths, and crop the sward,
And scratch their backs on every post or sill.

The meadow now, to Nature's wants alive,
Its rival blossoms so impartial yields,
That green and yellow, like two armies, strive,
To place their colours foremost in the field.

The fleecy flock the springing verdure crops,
Well pleased no more to dreary pens confined;
Nor dreaming aught of death or mutton-shops;
The hapless fate predestined for their kind.

The playful lamb, with loud enquiring cries,
The fountain sweet of nature oft assails;
Prone on its knees, it draws the rich supplies,
And butts its head, and shakes its little tail.

The robin carols to the morning air,
With tuneful notes, his tale of love so true;

Or slyly perched on neighbouring tree-top, there
Of flocks and meadow takes a bird's-eye view.

In yonder field, the ploughman can be seen,
Guiding with careful hand his rustic car;
Or resting now, his clagging share to clean;
Or wet his whistle* from an earthen jar.

At length the distant horn, whose notes betray
The noontide hour, sends forth a welcome peal,
"The ploughman homeward plods his weary way
And leaves the world"—to take his mid-day meal.

AN ABYSSINIAN CATECHISM OF MARINE INSURANCE FOR THE USE OF MERCHANTS.

Q.—What is a Marine Insurance Company?

A.—A Marine Insurance Co. is a something incorporated by the laws of the State of New York.

Q.—What is the chief duty of a Marine Insurance Company?

A.—The chief duty of a Marine Insurance Co. is to receive payment of premiums.

Q.—What is the secondary duty of a Marine Insurance Company?

A.—The secondary duty of a Marine Insurance Co. is to repudiate losses.

Q.—What are the extraordinary means whereby an Insurance Co. may fulfil its chief duty?

A.—The extraordinary means whereby an Insurance Co. may fulfil its chief duty are two-fold:—

1st. By having an Office.

2nd. By having an Agent.

Q.—What are the ordinary means whereby an Insurance Co. may fulfil its second duty.

A.—The means whereby an Insurance Co. may fulfil its secondary duty are three-fold:—

1st. By having no office.

2nd. By having no agent.

3rd. By imputing fraud.

Q.—What is a premium note?

A.—A premium note is an obligation taken by the Co. in anticipation of the issue of a policy.

Q.—What is a policy?

A.—A policy is an instrument binding the Co. to receive a premium.

Q.—What is a certificate?

A.—A certificate is an instrument proving that a premium is due to the Co.

Q.—What is a pass-book?

A.—A pass-book is a place for the entry of premiums.

Q.—What is a premium?

A.—A premium is a sum of money which has to be paid to the Co.

Q.—What is a loss?

A.—A loss is a sum of money which has to be paid by the Assured.

Q.—Who is the Assured?

A.—The Assured is the person who always has to pay the premium.

THEODORUS I.

From Magdala, 1869.

* No allusion whatever to "The Whistler at the Plough."