

of the term, since settlements have been formed in all directions, and no extensive blocks of wild forest exist. In this part of the county of Northumberland new farms are yearly in the course of making and improving, the timber is not heavy, the surface rolling; and in a few years the landscape will present a scene of beauty and plenteousness. Mr. Hume is of opinion that planting wood must be ultimately resorted to on the old cleared lands for shelter and domestic use, when the culture of winter wheat may probably be resumed with former success. In this view we have found many to coincide. With respect to the attacks of the midge in spring wheat, Mr. Patrick Wright holds a strong opinion, which is sustained by Mr. John Wade, and others, that late sown Fife will almost invariably escape the ravages of that insect. We understand that it has been found in this section, in numerous instances, that wheat sown in the end of April or beginning of May, has been greatly injured or wholly destroyed; while that sown later has escaped. It will be important to collect a number of well authenticated facts in relation to this question, so as to admit of safe generalisation.

We regret having so little time with Messrs. Patrick Wright, Reddick, Alcorn, and others, whose farming operations would have afforded us much pleasure and information to have seen more in detail. Mr. Wright was the introducer a few years ago of the Alsike Clover, which is becoming more and more known and appreciated. He cultivates root crops pretty extensively, and is experimenting with different manures, the results when obtained, it is hoped will be made known. Mr. Roddick is well known for his excellent Durham and Galloway cattle. We saw some good Leicester sheep, a breed that is generally much liked in Canada, and in which there is much room, in many places, for improvement.

After spending an hour or two with Mr. John Wade, of Port Hope, who must be classed among our early agricultural improvers, and taking a momentary glance at his highly cultivated and well laid out farm, with some beautifully looking green hedges and ornamental shade trees, we took rail for Toronto, very much gratified with the journey.

A VARIETY OF GRASS.

EDITORS OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST: *Gentlemen*,—I enclose you a specimen of a kind of grass I have found growing on my farm. I do not know its name, or the order to which it belongs, nor have I ever seen it elsewhere. The stalks are about 4 feet in height, springing from a dense growth of leaves, the leaves themselves spring up from the roots of the stalks, altogether forming a

dense tuft of luxuriant vegetation. If this grass could be cultivated, and be made to cover the land as the specimen on my farm covers its $1\frac{1}{2}$ square foot, I think it would be next to impossible for weeds to obtain a footing among it. What I would like very much to know is—what would be its value as food for stock, and if its cultivation on land infested with the Canada thistle and other noxious weeds would have the effect of keeping in check or destroying them? I think, from what I have seen in this township, in Vaughan and York, that this year deserves to be noted as a year of weeds; the Canada thistles in particular, encouraged by the most reprehensible ignorance, indolence, and neglect of the proprietors of the soil, have shown their ugly forms to a most alarming extent, and they are in some instances I have recently seen in a fair way of making a wilderness of whole farms. I should like to be allowed the privilege of a few remarks on this subject in a future No. of the *Agriculturist*.

Yours obediently,

JAMES ELLIOTT.

King, Aug. 15th, 1863.

[The specimen of grass enclosed by our correspondent is the "Cocksfoot," or, as it is most commonly called in the States, "Orchard grass." This grass has been cultivated to some extent in the United States, though but little that we are aware of in Canada. It is a kind of grass that makes a strong rough coarse growth, too much so rather for hay, unless cut in an early stage. It makes an early growth in spring, and is therefore valuable for pasturage, and is much relished by all kinds of cattle, if cropped close to the ground, but if allowed to run up to coarse stalks cattle do not like it. It also produces an abundant aftermath. We are not aware that it would have any particular value in preventing the growth of weeds; in fact from its tendency to grow in strong, isolated tufts, it might have rather a contrary effect, unless sown along with several other varieties of grass and clover. The cocksfoot is considered one of the most valuable varieties of grass in England. The seed may be obtained at the seed stores in this city. It is very light, and is sown at the rate of one to two bushels per acre, mixed with other sorts. We shall be glad to hear from our correspondent again on the subject. He proposes to write upon.—Eds.]