

with cheerful accord, extend to every deserving journal devoted to the interests of their profession, a most generous support. I have already said that this, to a great extent, is being done, but there is room for still further enlargement. Two dollars a year spent for good agricultural and horticultural newspapers, may be safely set down at a hundred dollars clear profit to the subscriber, and in many cases, at ten times that amount, but of course this pre-supposes that they are carefully read. Farmers, support your newspapers, by your subscriptions, and communications.

A MOON FALLACY EXPOSED.

A writer in the *American Builder* has taken the trouble to refute at length a large number of popular fallacies regarding the influence of the moon upon terrestrial things. We extract the following upon the cutting of timber and the sowing of seeds:

"An opinion is entertained that timber should be felled only during the decline of the moon, for if it be cut down during the increase it will not be of good or durable quality. This impression prevails in various countries. But can there be imagined, in the whole range of natural science, a physical relation more extraordinary and unaccountable than this supposed correspondence between the movement of the sap and the phases of the moon. Certainly, theory affords not the slightest countenance to such a supposition. But let us inquire as to the fact whether it be really the case that the quality of the timber depends upon the state of the moon at the time it is felled. M. Dechamuel, a celebrated French agriculturist, felled a great many trees of the same age, growing in the same soil, and exposed to the same aspect, and never found any difference in the quality of the timber when he compared those which were felled in the decline of the moon with those which were felled during its increase; in general, they have afforded timber of the same quality.

"It is a maxim among gardeners that cabbages and lettuce, which are desired to shoot forth early; flowers which are to be double, trees which are desired to produce early ripe fruit, should be severally sown, planted, and pruned during the increase of the moon; and that, also, trees which are expected to grow with vigor should be sown, planted, grafted, and pruned, during the increase of the moon. These opinions are altogether erroneous. The increase or decrease of the moon has no appreciable influence on vegetation, and the experiments of several eminent agriculturists have clearly proved this. Pliny states that if we would collect grain for the purpose of immediate sale we should do so at the full of the moon, because during the moon's increase the grain augments remarkably in magnitude; but if we would collect the grain to preserve, we should choose the new moon. So far as it is consistent with observations that more rain falls during the increase of the moon than during its decline, there may be some reason for this maxim; but Pliny can scarcely have credit for grounds so rational; besides which, the difference in the quantity of rain which falls during the two periods is so insignificant as to be totally incapable of producing the effects adverted to."

EDITOR'S BOOK TABLE.

FIRST LESSONS IN AGRICULTURE; for Canadian Farmers and their Families. By Egerton Ryerson Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto. (See advertisement) We have received from the publishers a specimen copy of this timely and valuable contribution to our Canadian literature, in the preparation of which Dr. Ryerson has rendered an important service to our agricultural, educational, and literary interests. The author says of the work, in a prefatory notice: "The selection of topics, arrangement, many of the definitions, explanations, and illustrations of this little book, are my own; but the materials and much of the phraseology have been compiled and condensed from the most approved modern works on Chemistry, Botany, and Agriculture." Originality were impossible in such a line of things; to collect and arrange the wisdom of the ages, is all that any man, however gifted, can do. Simplification, convenient arrangement, and compression, are about all that it is of any use to attempt in such an undertaking. Agricultural lore is contained in ponderous volumes, and scattered through various scientific works. To boil down, to eliminate, to make easy and plain, is the humble but useful office of an author or editor of "First Lessons." These functions have been, so far as we can judge, well performed in the publication before us. It consists of two parts; "Preparatory Knowledge," in which first principles are dealt with, and "Preparatory Knowledge Applied," in which these principles are reduced to practical results. The work is thrown into the form of question and answer, making it convenient for use as a class-book in schools, and we hope to find it extensively introduced into the common schools of our Dominion. In this form it is also well adapted for family use, and intelligent farmers could not do better than improve the long winter evenings by the study of this book, and the instruction of their children in its teachings. We tender our thanks to the Chief Superintendent of Education for the patriotic task he has so well fulfilled, and commend the "First Lessons" to all and sundry.

THE HANDY-BOOK OF HUSBANDRY: a guide for farmers, young and old. E. B. Treat & Co., Broadway, N. Y. P.p. 604 octavo. Price in cloth, \$3.50, in morocco \$4.00, in extra half-calf \$5.50, American money. We are indebted to the publishers for a copy of this work now completed; and, as we anticipated from the advance sheets noticed some time ago in our columns, it is a valuable acquisition to an agricultural library. We cheerfully publish and heartily endorse the following opinions of the Press respecting this book:—*The New York Daily Tribune* says: "ANOTHER OF WARING'S BOOKS FOR FARMERS.—The large class who have read Colonel