

## FENCING IN CANADA.

In our last volume we devoted a good deal of space to the subject of fencing. We believe the discussion, communications, &c., resulted in much good to the community. Many persons have been prevented from undertaking costly experiments which would have proved a failure, as they had already done in the hands of persons well qualified to conduct them properly. Hints and suggestions were also thrown out which have led to trials and experiments in the right direction. We do not propose to give so much attention to the subject of fencing—although none can be more important—in the present volume. The following observations, however, from a member of the Louth Farmers Club, are so much to the point, that we willingly make room for them. Mr. Philip Gregory addressed the Club as follows:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen*—At our last Meeting I was caught and harnessed, not very willingly you recollect, to open the discussion at this meeting of our Club, and a subject named for me—not a subject of my own selection, but rather pressed on me—and should I inflict a punishment on you, by listening to me without a corresponding benefit to you, you must not charge it to my vanity, but to my ignorance, and a natural disposition to try and add something to the common stock, from which I have so far only been a recipient.

The subject of Fencing is one of great importance, and much more might be said on it than my humble ability will admit of, or time allow to go into detail; so that I shall occupy but little time, being persuaded that there are others here that can do so to a better purpose. There is no need of telling you how our fathers built the log fences that enclosed their first turnip or potatoe patches in Canada: it is a thing of the past, and in less time than has elapsed since the log fence fell into disuse, it will not be necessary to tell you how the rail fence that succeeded it is erected. At this time, however, the rail fence that we all know how to make, and what it costs, is the fence for the time; but as rails have risen in price from less than \$10 the 1000 to \$30 and upwards in a very few years, so that before many years pass we need not calculate to buy them at any reasonable price. That rails might be more economically used than is commonly done there is no doubt, and let it be but to ever so small an extent, the aggregate on the fences of Canada would be no inconsiderable amount saved.

I saw a fence not far from London this fall, made of posts and three rails set in, and on an embankment mostly thrown up with the plough. I believe it to be a cheap and good fence, and, being straight, occupies but little ground; but I saw its defects also—in the spring and early summer, before the ground becomes dry and solid, the hogs had commenced rooting in the side of the embankment, and finally went through it in several places. It appeared to me that the embankment was not thick enough in proportion to its height. It, however, made a formidable looking fence, and no doubt would be very durable. Mr. R. L. Dennison, of Toronto, said he made a piece of fence on this plan some years ago, and he considered it the best fence he ever made. The embankment was about two feet high, and three feet at the base. He used two boards instead of rails to finish his fence. He thinks the ditch no evil but a benefit; nothing ever got through this fence. He said he intended to make some of the same kind of fence next season, but will use rails instead of boards.

As timber becomes more scarce and dearer, the board fence will replace the common rail fence; but it is much dearer now, and more subject to decay. Cedar posts are said to be very durable in a fence. There are so few used here, and those so recently planted, that I can say but little as to the economy of using them, as they would have to be brought from some distant part of the country, while we have oak and chestnut at hand, and both make very good posts. Chestnut is a timber of very rapid growth, is easily worked, holds a nail exceedingly well; and a chestnut pole, the size of a common rail, will last as long as a split rail from a full grown tree.

I have taken some pains, but without any satisfactory results, to ascertain what would be the probable expense of live fences, and also of stone. The best treatise on growing a hedge that I have met with is by a gentleman calling himself Caleb Kirk, in the *Albany*