

the great attention that is given to agriculture in that country, which is supposed to contain one-third of the population of the earth. From a late work, "Recollections of service in China," we give the following selections in reference to the agriculture of that vast Empire:—

"Nothing can exceed the high state of cultivation which the whole of this group is under, every inch of ground being occupied with some description of kitchen-garden stuff. All is tilled with manual labour alone, with the exception of the low, wet, rice fields at the base of the valleys, which are occasionally ploughed by the assistance of the ox. We were much surprised to see so much cultivation, evidently the work of a large population. . . . The greatest degree of pains and care is taken by this thrifty nation to improve their soil by constantly manuring it, thus enabling them always to obtain two crops, and very frequently three, from the same land in one year. They have been for centuries in the habit of transporting manure from the large towns on the sea-coast, to the fertile districts in central China, made up, and pressed into a form much resembling our oil-cake. . . . The country through which it (the River) wound its way was a perfect flat, as far as the eye could reach, and in as high a state of cultivation as the market gardens around London; small farm-houses stand in every direction, neatly encircled with flower-gardens, the whole presenting a perfect picture of wealth, fertility, industry, and comfort; and when we were informed—a circumstance we had every reason to believe perfectly true—that the same state of things existed, not only throughout the whole of this, but of all the neighbouring Provinces, any one of which, as regards extent, would make a handsome kingdom for a European potentate, some slight idea may be formed of the endless internal agricultural wealth of the Chinese Empire, and the little concern the Emperor of this mighty country has been accustomed to bestow upon foreign nations, their commerce, trade, or anything else concerning them. Numerous implements of agriculture, which we supposed only to be known to the most scientific and highly instructed European nations, were discovered in great numbers, and in constant use among them—from the plough and common harrow, to the winnow and thrashing machine, with which scarcely any farm-house, however small, was unprovided; added to which, for the purpose of irrigation, there was scarcely any considerable field that did not possess a chain-pump for the purpose of irrigating their crops, by drawing water from the lower levels, with comparatively small labour to themselves, from which models I have not the smallest doubt, those at present in use in our navy or merchantmen were taken."

We have seen other books lately published, which state in what high respect agriculture is held in China, from the Emperor downwards. It is, therefore, no wonder that the country should be highly cultivated. When the wealthy and educated of any country have the common sense to regard with some interest that which must form the basis of the prosperity of the whole population, we may expect great improvement in Canadian agriculture, but not before,

we believe. It must commence with the wealthy and educated, or with the Government, to take a direct and active part to promote agricultural improvement in this or any other country, and until they do this, all the public money appropriated for these purposes will not produce the improvement required.

## PROSPECT OF THE HARVEST.

To the Editor of the Mark-Lane Express.

SIR,—At this momentous season, important, not only to the agriculturist, but likewise to the nation at large, a candid statement as to the present appearance, and apparent future prospect of the wheat and potato crops grown in this district (Gooch and Marshfield) will not, I trust, prove unacceptable to your subscribers.

I am well aware if, instead of genial sunshine, we experience a continuance of dull and gloomy weather at that period when the former is considered as essentially necessary for the early maturing and securing these valuable productions, the farmer is very liable to form a hasty, and thus not unfrequently an erroneous, opinion as to the result; hence, no doubt, arises the gloomy forebodings with which your paper last week was inundated.

With these few preliminary remarks, I would first observe that, in order to arrive at a fair conclusion, particular notice should be taken of the preceding summer, as to its general character for preparing the land to receive the seed, and what was the effect produced upon it after germination during the following seasons, in its several stages of shooting, flowering, and maturing.

I believe it is generally admitted that a dry year is the prognosticator of a good crop of wheat, and all will agree that such was the summer of 1844. Wheat received a good bed, and more than an average breadth was sown. Gentle rains succeeded, and the winter frosts merely gave it a salutary check. The appearance in March was most propitious, but the absence of snow during the winter had left the soil in a very light state; and about this time we experienced high winds, which considerably affected the gentler soils, changing their hitherto-luxuriant to a barren appearance, and in some districts it was considered necessary to plough it up. From April until the middle of June we had favourable weather; patchy wheat was observed to branch and fill up in every direction, and the general opinion prevailed that wheat would be a very abundant crop; from that period up to the 18th of the present month it was cold and calm, with occasional heavy rains, lodging the stronger crops, and no doubt injuring its yield; on that day it commenced raining, and continued, with very little intermission, for fifty hours, causing extensive damage to the potato and corn crops; but the fine weather since has done much to repair the mischief, except where the land was laid so low as to remain flooded for two or three days. I find, on referring to my books, I commenced harvesting—In

1842, on the 19th of August.

1843, " 13th "

1844, " 13th "

present year, " 23rd " And in the

We have therefore seen that the breadth of wheat sown was large, and in good condition—that it wintered well—that the injury done by the high winds and paucity of snow is to a great degree repaired by the branching and after filling up—that, although the summer was cool, it was calm, and therefore congenial to flowering—that the lodging of the crops is partial, and where not much laid, well fed—that the damage done by the continued rain last week is local, and that the time of reaping is only eight days later than the average of the three preceding years. I cannot, therefore, come to any other conclusion than that the crop will prove an average one in quantity, though not perhaps in quality; and, should