

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

DEAR SIR,—On looking over your Feb. No., in the Horticultural Department, among the hints for February, under the heading of "Fencing and Hedging," I notice some recommendations there set forward, which do not agree with my experience upon such matters, and which I am satisfied will not be borne out by the practical gardeners of this country.

Knowing you to be the "Farmer's Advocate," and ever ready to convey to them and your readers in general only such information as shall tend to their benefit and advancement, I have no hesitation in addressing you, notwithstanding that probably the article in question comes from the pen of "your correspondent." Setting aside the fact that out of the number of plants mentioned by your correspondent as suitable for making hedges, I presume in Canada there are only three which at the present time are in anything like universal repute. I would call your attention to the paragraph which calls forth these remarks, namely:—

"But the best hedge in light or sandy soils is the Maclura or Osage Orange."

A more fallacious doctrine with regard to hedge plants for Canada than this cannot be preached, in proof of which go to any nurseryman in Canada, and if you can purchase plants of his growth of Osage Orange for hedging purposes, I will forfeit my right to judge of such matters again.

We are indebted to our Yankee neighbors for the introduction of the plant in question, a plant which cannot be depended upon there to stand the winter uninjured, except in warmer portions of the country.

No respectable nurseryman would ever recommend Osage Orange for a hedge plant to any one in Canada.

Then, again your correspondent thinks the Buckthorn would do well in this climate of cold. I can only say in regard to this that I think his experience of Canadian hedge plants must be very limited indeed, or he would know that the Buckthorn stands at the head of the list among hedge plants in Canada.

Should we have to depend upon "cutting," "grafting," or layering to furnish us with hedges, then long, long, will be the time before our unsightly fences will be replaced by these beautiful additions to the scenery of any country.

Nothing is said of the Berberry (*Berberis Vulgaris*) or Tree Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tartarica*), both of them easier of propagation and better adapted for the purpose than either of the first five mentioned at the commencement of your correspondent's article. I would willingly travel some distance to see a good Osage Orange hedge. I know of one near London, which, under the most favorable circumstances as to shelter, has failed to become worth anything for practical purposes.

Yours ever ready to learn,
RHAMNUS.

P. S.—How do you reconcile your own remarks on the Buckthorn with those of your Horticultural correspondent's on the Osage Orange?

We have given our opinion on the Buckthorn, but have no objection to insert the opinions of others, even though they may differ from our own. We wish to give all a fair hearing. This would not be the "Farmer's Advocate" unless we give all a fair hearing. On any agricultural subject we have not rejected communications that have even censured us.

COLD MUTTON.—If you wish to be very economical with a leg of mutton, you should carve it pretty much as you would a ham, then the next day put it for twenty minutes into a vessel containing boiling water, take it out and sprinkle some salt and a little flour over it, and put it to roast for twenty minutes before a good fire, basting frequently with some dripping, melted for the purpose. The result will be a very agreeable addition of roe leg of mutton.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Another Kansas Letter.

SIR,—With pleasure I received the "Farmer's Advocate" for this month, and herewith enclose one dollar for my subscription. I found it contains a rather extraordinary letter from here, and would ask space in your columns to make a few comments thereon. This I do, not for the purpose of airing my opinion of this State, but for correcting the gross errors and ungenerous remarks contained in it. "Sick of Kansas" states that he "cannot stop abusing Kansas," that "it is the meanest State out," it must be kept in mind that this is a new country, and that it has gone through great tribulations; now, however, everything is quiet and prosperous; it is astonishing with what rapidity it is filling up, and building up. It can stand a deal of abuse, and all revilings will be powerless to check the immense tide of emigration coming from all parts of the world. The simple fact is, that this is a good country, and settlers with common industry can in a short time—say five or six years—have every comfort about them. There are no stumps or Canada Thistles to contend with, the land bearing crops every year without manure. In regard to the people here, your correspondent uses a great many needless and unkind adjectives. I have been much among them, and find them in general social and good neighbors. I have not seen the ravenous propensities charged. It is well known that Americans do not use as much meat as Englishmen or Canadians; but the point fails in this alleging poverty as the cause. "Sick of Kansas" ought to know that animal food here is by far the cheapest; it is not the chicken that costs the money, it is the fixings.

This is not yet a wheat producing State, but still your friend places a gross misstatement in his letter, he says, "Wheat \$3.50 per hundred weight; crop three to seven bushels per acre." He would have been nearer the mark had he put the price at \$1 per bushel, and the crop at thirteen to seventeen bushels per acre, average. I have seen plenty of wheat this year yield twenty-five bushels, and no doubt as the land becomes cultivated this will increase; but corn is the main crop here, and it is good. He also says there is "no timber to fence with, or implements to work with." What bosh! With plenty of railroads how ridiculous! We can get anything required here, it is in no way difficult to procure fencing material. You can choose post and wire, stone—lime stone is abundant—or osage, which grows remarkably fast here. I have tried in vain to find out the store keepers who "Mr. So and So, nursery-men, &c., have not paid for their groceries and clothing for a couple for a couple of years." If any come here with any such ideas, sad disappointment will follow, for although our merchants are very decent fellows, they are not quite so liberal, business here is done on short terms.

The past year I have seen good crops growing on land which was without manure, cropped every year since this was the Indian hunting ground, still I read "I could buy any quantity of land cheap, but I have no faith in its production. If I could nail 100 acres of good wheat and grass land I would, but there is no such thing." How preposterous! There are tens of thousands of acres of the very best of such land in this State awaiting the plough. This reminds me of the unfortunate statement made by your Premier, Hon. J. S. Macdonald, in the Legislative halls at Toronto, that "there was no land fit for settlement in Ontario." This coming from such a complete specimen of the Highlander, who is supposed to be able to exist on rocks, was ominous, and tended to injure your Province. Mr. "Sick of Kansas" could procure thousands of 100 acres such as he desires, and if he "can farm as well as any one," would before many years have a good home and every comfort about him; however, as he wishes,

among other countries—he seems to be a rover—to try Canada, it would be well to let him learn that although you should let his name be known—which he seems to dread—he might stay or go unharmed. His excuse that "they would shoot me if they knew I said anything about Kansas," is puerile in the extreme, for "they" think with the old woman, that shooting would be too good for him; that he should be well spanked.

I will leave the editors here to handle the compliment paid them. So far as I have seen they are courteous, educated gentlemen, quite capable of polishing off Mr. "Sick of Kansas."

I have, Mr. Editor, the warmest wishes for the prosperity of the Dominion of Canada, where I spent so many happy days; all I have to say against it is that its climate is too severe for some constitutions, and I feel keenly the statements contained in the letter referred to, for I consider that "Sick of Kansas," while abusing this State, is unwittingly aiming a shaft at our "great West," which is composed of land similar to that here. There are other things in your "Kansas letter" which I could easily refute, but I must not trench too much on your space.

Yours, &c.,

GEO. DOHERTY.

Spring Farm, Lawrence, Douglas Co.,
Kansas, Jan. 25, 1871.

Look to Your Cellars.

Those who have in charge the care of the household should frequently think of their cellars. No vegetables, except potatoes should be stored in the cellar. Especially cabbages, beets, celery and turnips be excluded. A cellar should be thoroughly whitewashed at least once a year, and swept and put in order twice a month. The air in a properly kept cellar will not become impure when the weather becomes sufficiently cold to render necessary the closing up of the open windows, while on the other hand, the air of a cellar, so closed up, which is untidily kept and filled with vegetables, some of them in a decayed state, may be well imagined. All cellars, however, should have the outside doors thrown open for an hour, or two in mid-day, upon clear days, when the temperature is above the freezing point.

An excess of water, or too much dampness, in some instances arises from surface water, and in others from spring veins that crop out in the cellar. Sometimes the bottom of the cellar will often be covered with water.

The correct way to avoid a wet cellar, is to lay a tile drain entirely around the outside of the excavation, nearly a foot lower than the bottom of the cellar, before the foundation walls are laid. But after an edifice has already been erected, and water appears on the cellar bottom, the most satisfactory way to render the bottom dry is to sink the channel nearly a foot deep entirely around the cellar close to the wall, and a course of drain-tiles in the bottom, which will cut off all water-veins, and thus render the cellar quite satisfactorily dry, by conducting the water into the tiles before it can work along toward the middle of the cellar.—*Scientific American.*

SASKATCHEWAN GOLD.—We have been shown by Mr. McArthur, of this city, who has just arrived from Red River, a specimen of the Saskatchewan gold, which seems to be obtained from both gravel and rock with considerable ease—the lumps being remarkable for size and pureness. This gold is saleable at \$16 per ounce. While the standard for pure gold at the English Mint is £3 17s 10½d. Miners can make about \$8 per day in collecting it; but the provisions are so high that these fine returns scarcely pay them, especially as mining, as at present carried on, can only be continued a few months in the year. The time cannot be distant, however, when this difficulty must correct itself by the increased production of regions nearer to the field of operations, where, from present appearances, this gold will rapidly attract population. Gold and copper are also found on the east shore of Lake Winnipeg; but whether in paying quantities or not, has never been ascertained.

The Burned District.

SIR,—I returned from the meeting of the Board of Trade at Ottawa by the Canada Central to see the burned district. It was a melancholy prospect—ruined stone houses and stone foundations of wooden houses, showing through the snow every here and there all the way, till it grew too dark to see them, while the wooden ones were totally obliterated. In many places new frame houses had been put up, but many of them very small in size, and all slightly and cheaply built. Many had apparently not been able to put up houses of any kind; and what once were woods are now tangled masses of fallen trees, with a tall, black stem standing upright here and there.

We copy the above from the Montreal Witness. At the Fall meeting of the County Council of Middlesex nothing was done to aid the poor creatures that had been ruined by the fire. We had made an appeal to the public for seed, or anything else for them, but Mr. Public is too selfish a gentleman to aid any one without the prospect of a good interest for investment, and not a single 5 cent piece or peck of potatoes has been sent in to aid poor sufferers. The inhabitants here are too well off. It sacrifices the old saying, "if it were not for the poor the poor would starve."

THE VALUE OF VACCINATION.—The small-pox epidemic now raging in London (Eng.) is, perhaps, one of the most virulent which has existed within the memory of man. 110 died in one week, and many more were attacked and recovered. A week or two ago, 700 pauper patients were suffering from this dangerous and loathsome disease. One-third of the deaths occur amongst patients who have not been vaccinated; while amongst those who had been vaccinated only one in twenty-four died, and these were chiefly of people advanced in years, and who had partly lost the protecting influence which vaccination gives in early life. One fact deserves notice. Nurses and medical officers acting in the most crowded wards of the London Hospitals, scarcely ever fall victims to the small-pox, for all are obliged to be re-vaccinated before beginning their duties. The disease seems to have been especially fatal in Liverpool, one having died out of every four attacked.

We hear of this disease committing dreadful havoc in our North West Territory, also of its approach on the eastern border. The next railway train might leave it at our doors, and vaccination should be attended to at once by every one of our subscribers that have any regard for their lives or the lives of those under their care.

CURING THE ERYSIPELAS.—The following we copy from the Main Farmer:—"A neighbor had died of erysipelas, and in laying him out, another man took it, and in a few days it spread over his left arm till it was quite raw from the wrist to the elbow. He kept it open to the air, and went about his work on the farm with his arm uncovered. In haying time he was in the barn salting his hay, and as he threw it about with his right hand his left arm was covered with it. It felt quite comfortable, but not knowing how it might work, he went into the house and washed it off. The next day he covered it again in the same way, but left it remain instead of washing it off. The side of his arm soon got well but the sore remained underneath, till he bound salt upon it, when it got well. He has had symptoms of it in his face several times since, and would just wet his finger in salt and apply it, and it would prevent further trouble. He fully believes that common salt applied in season will cure most if not all cases of this kind. Try it."

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