

For the Farmer's Advocate.

**To Farmer's Wives.**

By I. F. INCH.

In my travels I have noticed a fast-growing evil—in the peaceful Dominion of Canada—among farmer's sons and daughters. That is: a dislike to home-made clothing. I see it in the neighbors' children; I see it among the poorer classes as well as the rich. A young girl, as soon as she enters her teens, turns up her nose at home-made flannel. Oh! she thinks it is not genteel to wear "such stuff;" she must have wincy, or delaine, or some poor trashy thing, which will keep out neither cold nor rain, and only lasts a few weeks, until it must be mended.

Just so with the boys. I have seen farmers make good home-made full-cloth, which looked really respectable and decent—which would last two winters, nicely—sell it for 80c. a yard, and buy tweeds and shoddy of the very poorest stamp for \$1.50, just because they think it more elegant to wear store cloth than home-made. Now I think this might be remedied, in part, at any rate.

Mothers, you do not make your flannel pretty enough; you put too many colors in it. Year after year you have the same showy tints, with perhaps a slight variation of pattern.

Again: you don't take care enough to make the girls' dresses neat. You send their merino to the dress-maker's—while you think you can make their flannel ones yourselves.

I hope you will bear with me speaking plainly; but I'll tell you how we manage. We pick out the best of the wool and keep it apart for the dresses. When it is carded, we spin it both fine and soft. We then dye it all one color. We ignore stripes and plaids altogether for dresses, unless of a very small pattern. This year, or rather last year, we colored the cotton blue; and the yarn first blue and then magenta, which gives it a beautiful purple tinge.

We gored the skirts, and made plain waists, trimming them slightly with velvet.

For my little sister, ten years' old, we made a neat little suit which she wears to school, Sunday School, and every where she goes. The dress we made full-skirted, with a tuck, as she is a slim child, and "wears no hoops." The waist and sleeves are plain, and fitting nicely. The neck and wrists are bound with velvet—just some of the cuttings of my best basque. We had some green silk fringe which was very much faded. By throwing it into the black dye it came out looking quite new. With this we trimmed the dress and a little sack-jacket. If she does not look neat and comfortable, with her little woollen hood and mits of her own knitting, then I am no judge of looks. I intend saying something about boys' clothing next time, so good evening for the present.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

**Productiveness of Nature.**

The potato, one of the most valuable of the vegetable productions, has attained its present utility solely through the dint of cultivation. Originally, as found in South America, it was an insignificant half-poisonous root, of little or no account as an article of food, till brought under cultivation by Europeans in the seventeenth century.

Our common grain was once in a state resembling grass.

Our apples, of which we may reckon hundreds of species, are but the cultured successors of the worthless crabs and wildlings—and our present pears can boast of an origin no more honorable.

Our plums are the cultivated descendants of the sloe.

The peach and nectarines trace back their pedigree to the common almond tree.

The rose, like most of our beautiful fragrant flowers, is the product of cultivation. The original plant, from which have proceeded such charming varieties of the rose, is considered by botanists to be the common wild briar; and in like manner cauliflowers, cabbages, and our other domestic vegetables, are the artificial products of human skill and vegetable improbability. These may be taken as specimens of the inexhaustible resources and capabilities which nature holds in reserve to meet any supposable demands of civilized man. While man remained in a savage state, these things lay dormant; as man has advanced, and exists in his present partially-

civilized condition, and with his present increased wants, these resources are partially developed. As he shall advance, and his numbers and his wants increase, the resources by his labor and skill, and the subjection to his use of larger territories, shall be yet more drawn out.

Already does nature give some unmistakable hints of her extraordinary capabilities of production. The following instances of extraordinary productiveness—which, under the usual course of things, sometimes are met with—indicate the gigantic possibilities of nature's productive power, which—should the condition of the world ever require it—will prove equal to the new demand. Most of our fruits and vegetables seem capable of an enlargement, and of improvement in their quality, which would appear quite incredible if such things did not actually occur.

By dint of culture, cabbages and turnips have been produced of half a hundred-weight. Apples of one and a half pound. A strawberry seven inches round. Lettuce weighing four and a half pounds. A bunch of grapes weighing fifteen pounds. A mushroom about a yard round! and weighing nearly 2 pounds! A pear of two pounds weight. A black currant two and a half inches round! and a gooseberry three and a half. A melon of superior flavor, weighing 18 pounds. A cauliflower nearly 16 pounds—and all these in the soil and climate of England.

In 1824, a pear tree in Scotland sent forth several young shoots, which in the same summer bore fruit scarcely inferior to that of the parent stock.

Again we hear of the occasionally remarkable productions of grains. A single grain of wheat produces—in different countries and under the present ordinary-indifferent culture—from five to fifty-fold; yet the capabilities of production under peculiar culture and favoring circumstances, are almost inconceivably above this.

Wheat, brought by a missionary from Siberia, when cast into the best of soil, and carefully cultivated, has been known to give 2,000 grains for one sown.

A single grain of wheat, sown in a garden at Weston, England, in 1819, produced 78 stalks, and yielded 7,445 grains.

[To be continued, if worth space in your paper.]

We will find space for all such communications.—Ed.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

**Seed Report.**

MR. WELD.—The package of Chevalier Barley you sent me last spring did fine work. There were 24 ozs. I planted it on one square rod, and took off 29 pounds, which was at the rate of 95 bushels to the acre.

I am, yours truly,

JOSEPH KINCHEN.

Owen Sound, Ont., April 4, 1870.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

**The Potatoe.**

SIR,—The culture of the above esculent, exciting so much attention of late, has led me, like many others largely interested in their production, to give several of the new varieties a fair trial, with a view to form an opinion for my future guidance, and take leave to give your readers my experience on the subject.

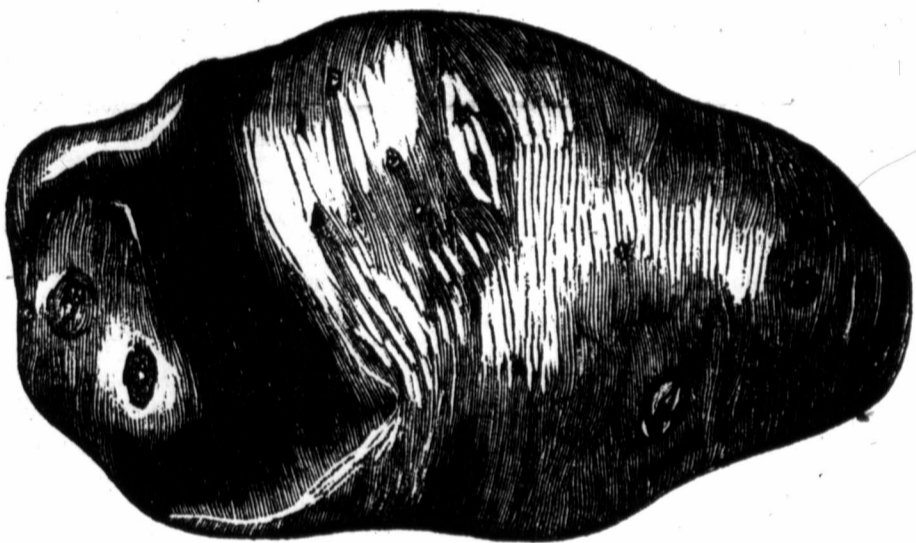
I have found the Calico as one well worth the consideration of the farmers, either as regards productiveness, in which it excels many, or in qualities suitable for table use, in which it is surpassed by few. These latter qualities appear to me to be well worth conserving, as in many of the large-producing varieties we get extra returns at the cost of real good qualities.

The Goodrich is also considered an excellent potato, and likely to hold its own ground along side of other kinds, which are catering for public favor. It is a good cooker, and yields rather better than the Calico.

Yours truly,

W. MARR.

Westminster, April, 1870.

**THE CALICO POTATO.**

With a view to giving our Subscribers a better opportunity for procuring choice Seeds both for field and garden, we have resolved on making up 25 Barrels, 25 Bags, and 25 Half Bags, of the following Seeds and Vines. The Bags will contain one-half the quantity of Seeds enumerated in the list, down to the vines; the rest will be the same as the barrel. In like manner the half Bag will contain the half of the whole Bag, the Vines and other Seeds the same as the Barrel and Bag. None need apply for these parcels but Subscribers to the Farmer's Advocate. Address the Agricultural Emporium, London, Ont.

One Peck Calico Potatoes, .....	37½	One package General Grant Tomato .....	20
One-and-a-half pecks Early Goodrich .....	55	One package Cross' Early Nutmeg Melon, .....	25
One-and-a-half pecks Harrison .....	55	One package Phlox Drummondii, Zinnias, .....	
Half peck Early Rose .....	35	Double China Asters and Flower .....	
Four ounces Breeses Prolific .....	37½	Seeds .....	40
Half peck Norway Oats .....	60	Barrel and packages .....	90
One peck Surprise Oats .....	75		
One peck Marshal Oats .....	50	Total .....	\$7 75
Half peck Crown Peas .....	12½	We will furnish them to Subscribers—	
Half peck Excelsior Peas .....	37½	Per Barrel, .....	\$6 00
One pound Alsike Clover .....	25	Per Bag, .....	3 50
Four choice Grape Vines, named .....	1 00	Per Half Bag, .....	2 25
One package Mammoth Squash .....	20		

For the Farmer's Advocate.

MR. EDITOR.—As you profess to advocate the farmer's interests, I am surprised that you have not questioned the propriety of disposing of the Agricultural Grounds, belonging to the Agricultural Society, in the City of London. I believe it is the only land owned by the County Society. Will you inform us what the money is required for? Is the Association in debt? I rather think that few, if any, of the farmers of the County know that it is to be sold. I look on it as a step in the wrong direction, and is done only to retain office-holders and their friends to have some pickings from the spoil.

A CONSTANT READER.

We hear the Society has a surplus of money now on hand. They are also endeavoring to get another sum from the County Council. We have heard of no beneficial plan being devised to expend the money. We have tried to obtain information of what this city compact is attempting to do. The city has the control over the few farmers that are directors. A close meeting has been held where the press could not be represented, and your humble servant's presence was not allowed to sit in the reporters' corner to give you the result of the meeting.

We have done our duty when we have given you every caution that we could. We have told you that you should attend the Annual Meeting, and maintain free discussions there. We have repeatedly told you that you should form a Farmers' Club, and discuss the various subjects of importance to you.

The workings of this Agricultural Association in the city are more for the strengthening of a political party than for any advancement in agricultural prosperity.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

**Canada Thistles.**

SIR,—A friend of mine, a farmer, of long experience and undoubted authority and intelligence, in the Township of Norwich, whom I had the pleasure to meet the other day—the above pest and bother of the Canadian farmer came above-board in conversation. He assured me he had in several instances completely overcome them by the following treatment:—Allow them to get up pretty strong, and run the plough as deep as you can through them, after which they will in all probability come up stronger than they were at first, to all appearance. Let them come again to a good strong growth, when treat them to another turn of the plow, and let them make one more trial of strength with you, which they assuredly will do, putting forth all their remaining strength to hold their own against the attack. But this will be their last strong effort, as by another good turning over with the plow or cultivator, he, my friend, never failed to completely eradicate them. From the foregoing it would appear that the root became thoroughly exhausted in endeavoring to keep up a strong rush of growth above the earth, and by strong efforts being repeatedly made, expends the whole of their strength in the attempt.

Yours truly,

A SUBSCRIBER.

April, 1869.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

**Seeds.**

SIR,—I would like to know if you have any good Spring Wheat. If so, what is the price per bushel? Also, your terms to agents, and if you would like to have an agent here. I think the business might increase to something in a few years, as the place is new.

While writing, I might say that I like the seeds I got from you last year very well. The Surprise and Emporium Oats were very good, and would have been a great deal better if I had had them two or three weeks earlier. The Norway Oats would have been the best, I think; but I sowed them in a wet place, as it was rich, and a great deal of rain came and kept them back so late that they did not get ripe.

The Excelsior Peas I consider a great acquisition. I could find any amount of pods with ten peas in them—but if I keep on I shall write a "letter," and that is more than I bargained for.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL SUDDABY.

Bury's Green, Jan. 27, 1870.