

In answering Mr. Caird's book I shall not attempt to depreciate the agricultural capabilities of the broad lands of our American neighbours, but apply myself to the defence of Canada, and an exposure of the gross errors and fallacies which occur in every page of "Prairie Farming in America."

We Canadians entertain no feelings but those of amity towards our American brethren. There is no desire on either side for territorial aggrandisement at the expense of the other, or for any closer political connection than that which now exists. Each nation has before it a noble mission over an ample field, and for the due cultivation of this vast space, socially, morally, and religiously, we shall assuredly have to give account. A talent of inestimable value is committed to our joint keeping, which we cannot, without guilt, allow to remain unimproved,—a jewel lent to us which we are bound to keep untarnished, remembering that we all had a common origin, have a common language, and a common faith, and are treading a path which we pray may lead to a common Home, and a glorious Heritage above.

You are good to say that the re-publication of the various letters I have written to you during the last seven years will be very useful at this moment, and I feel flattered by the wish expressed by you for their reproduction. I prefer, however, just now to confine myself to this letter as a means of introducing the able and practical communications of my friends, which you will find at pp. 15-27, and because I want an early opportunity to assure Mr. Caird that I had no feelings of "acerbity" towards him personally, but I felt that some decisive mode of expression, especially as I have truth and experience on my side, should be used to counteract the influence which his fame as a farmer, and his position as legislator might have upon persons ill-informed about Canada, and undecided about their future home in the West.

The publication of Mr. Caird has evoked many statements from anonymous writers, the insertion of which I avoid. Too many of them are written from a selfish, personal, and purely Upper Canadian point of view, and in their zeal to advocate their own interests and "puff" their own localities, they have overstated the advantages of this country, and also the disadvantages under which even American authorities admit the Illinois Central District to labour.

is well deserving of notice. When ordinary care and attention is devoted to their cultivation, in the way of mere surface draining, and the application of farm-yard manure, gypsum, or lime, they grow with remarkable luxuriance. White clover springs up wherever the virgin soil is stirred with the plough, or even exposed to the sun's rays, after the process of clearing the land of its forest growth. The red clover flourishes year after year, without diminution in yield, if sparingly top-dressed with gypsum or leached wood ashes. Certain varieties of beans, (not the common horse bean), such as the dwarf, French, and kidney beans, come to maturity with remarkable rapidity, and are at the same time very prolific. Some of the dwarf varieties are especially adapted for forage crops, or even food, as in Germany and France. They may be sown in this country broadcast as late as the middle of July; they produce most abundantly and are well adapted to serve as green manure, on light soils deficient in vegetable matter.