

they might reap advantages from so doing, as well as other people.

Ignorance of this country is the great hindrance to immigration. It is astonishing how little is known about us by that old world, with whose every feature we are so familiar. To many, our Dominion is a vast wilderness of ice and snow. Others deem it a wild and inhospitable region, hardly fit for human habitation. Much pity is wasted on us as having a hard lot of it. Civilization and refinement are widely supposed to be unknown here. An emigrant is an object of sincere commiseration. If we visit the old world it is to be amazed at the ignorance of Canada which we find everywhere; and if a respectable old-countryman comes here on a visit, it is to be astonished at finding us well-dressed, living in decent houses, and actually enjoying the comforts and luxuries of life in a degree only possible to a favored few in Britain. It follows from all this, that one of the best methods of promoting immigration is to circulate information about the land we live in, and there is no more appropriate place for such information than the columns of an agricultural journal. Its publication there cannot but be interesting to home as well as foreign readers, because thus the different portions of our own country will become better acquainted with each other, and learn to feel a patriotic interest in each other's welfare. Such a journal, too, is the proper medium for advertising wild and other lands that may be for sale, whether by the Government or by private individuals. It is remarkable how little information of this kind usually finds its way into such journals. The *Country Gentleman*, of Dec. 17th, 1868, has a brief article on this point, part of which we quote as quite to our present purpose:—

“It is quite often the case that we receive inquiries, such as the following,—

“Will you, through the medium of your Journal, either give, or say which books, etc., shall give me, all the information necessary to enable a party of some twelve or fifteen Irish farming immigrants, who have a little money—capital, as well as labor—to decide as to which State they had better go to, and also as to the prices of lands there, the comparative advantage of buying from Railway Companies, or from the General Government, and of buying lands near a market, and cleared or uncleared, or remote from market, and which official of government or railways they should communicate with, etc.’

“It is a source of regret to us that our means of replying to such questions in a proper way are so limited. Those who hold new lands, whether railroad companies or others, appear to think an agricultural journal the last possible medium to be sought in communicating with the public, and with very few and rare exceptions, our advertising columns for ten years past will be searched in vain for any light on the subject. Corporations especially, instead of keeping the inducements they have to offer constantly before the agricultural public, seldom even take the trouble to furnish us with their publications. Under the circumstances, therefore, our reply can only be of a very general nature.”

We intend to make the publication of items likely to interest intending immigrants, a special feature of this journal, and hope that this will secure for it a considerable circulation in Britain. Those of our readers who have friends in the old country, whose wisdom it would be to come here, cannot do them a better service than by ordering the ONTARIO FARMER to be sent to their address during 1869. We promise to give such an amount of information concerning the Dominion of Canada, in our twelve issues for this year, as cannot be found in any other publication, and would be cheaply furnished at four times the subscription price of this journal. In so doing, we are persuaded that we shall render important service to the land of our adoption, our choice, and our love.

#### THE BEST MEANS OF OBTAINING IMMIGRANTS.

We have been favoured with the following letter from the pen of a gentleman, who, taking a deep interest in the progress of the Colonies, and particularly of Canada, has for some time past been labouring hard to diffuse correct information about this country among the classes in Britain who are most likely to emigrate. He is at present among us taking notes and observations, in order that he may be able to speak with greater confidence in reference to Canadian matters on his return to England:

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER:—

SIR,—The importance of a large immigration of people into a new country like Canada has always been recognized by the Canadian Legislature; and, if the money and labour annually expended by the Government in the furtherance of this object have hitherto been productive of only partial success, it is attributable to the fact that the people of the old country are but little acquainted with the advantage this country affords as a field for emigration; whilst the best means of counteracting this ignorance, and of bringing the opportunities he might obtain in the Dominion home to the British workman, constitutes a study which has, as yet, been but ill understood by the people on this side.