

sented by these plans is cheap, its cost being estimated at \$1000, American money, a comparatively small sum for so tasteful a residence. The construction of dwellings combining a certain degree of elegance with convenience, at a cost which should place them within the reach of people in moderate circumstances, has, thanks to the progress lately made in architectural designs been very happily attained. The advantages resulting from improvements of this kind can hardly be over-estimated. People who have the opportunity of examining such plans as these, but who have hitherto seen only the plain (sometimes rude and uncomely) habitations too often provided for our farmers and mechanics, can hardly fail to imbibe more correct ideas as to what such residences should be, in reference to forming a pleasant home. The occupant of a tasty cottage will naturally be led to make its surroundings correspond to it in style and appearance. Shrubbery and flowers, with grounds properly laid out, will come in as necessary accompaniments, and the ultimate result will be that home will become more attractive—nearer what home should be, “the dearest spot on all the earth.” If more attention were given to this matter, we should hear less complaint about farmers’ sons leaving the country to seek employment in the city. Thanks, then, to all whose labours tend to the promotion of rural arts and rural taste.

THE CROPS.

The *Lindsay Post* says the fall wheat throughout Victoria never looked better. There is, certainly, the promise of an abundant yield; and this in no particular township, but all over this county and neighbouring counties. Our information on this point is extensive and reliable.

The *Orangeville Sun* speaks of the weather being delightful, and the crops of every kind, which have made their appearance above ground, look splendid. Vegetation is so rapid that it has almost ceased to be a figure of speech to say that one sees the grass grow. A farmer in Mono put in peas on Friday, and on Wednesday they were up. The prospects of an abundant harvest are at present most cheering.

The *Bruce Reporter* says that though this has

been a comparatively backward spring, the weather for the past two weeks has been most favourable for vegetation. Every kind of crop in these parts is growing rapidly, and we never saw the farmer’s prospects better in this respect. If the present week passes by without any severe frosts, we may expect an abundant yield of fruit. For a county so young, we have a large number of orchards either bearing or newly set out, so that if planting goes on at the present ratio for the next two or three years, Bruce will be one of the finest fruit bearing counties in Ontario.

Western papers say that northern Wisconsin winter wheat promises an abundant harvest. Spring wheat is beginning to show itself. A large proportion of the corn is planted, and other crops are well under way. Vegetation has thriven luxuriantly the past two weeks. In Minnesota the latter part of May was cold and wet, but just the weather for wheat, oats, potatoes, grass, rye, and everything except corn and some kinds of garden products. On the whole there was, probably, never a more favourable spring, and with a good summer there will be a bountiful harvest. The appearance of the crops in Iowa, says the *Des Moines Register*, was never more gladdening, and if no unforeseen evil occurs, the heaviest crop will be harvested this summer that has ever been grown in Iowa since its settlement. The amount of wheat that has been sown will exceed that of last year by one-third. Corn has never at this stage of the season presented such a healthy appearance.

The fruit crop of western Ontario is reported by the *Chatham Planet* to be of extraordinary promise in apples, plums, pears, and cherries. The blossoms on all these trees, during the last ten days, have been both abundant and strong, the weather, however, being rather cold for the formation of the fruit, but it was not till Wednesday night that they had to encounter actual or sharp frost. We do not think, however, that there was actual damage done, except in the case of a few tomatoe plants, melon and cucumber vines, in exposed situations. Small fruits also promise a good crop, and, as these are more hardy, there is not much fear for them now.