

Editor's Table.

A WORD TO THE FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE.—Every reader into whose hands this paper may fall is invited to consider the importance of maintaining a Cheap Agricultural Journal in Canada, that the advancement of the most important public interest may command the sympathies of the masses, who will not pay, as experience has shown, much over two shillings a year for a work of this character. In the States, fifty cent agricultural papers meet with more encouragement than any which are sold at a higher price; and it is by cheap publications of this kind alone that we can reach the millions who most need enlightenment. If the friends of the great farming interest will second our humble but earnest efforts to collect and diffuse useful knowledge relating to rural affairs in the most economical and practical way, the CANADA FARMER will achieve at once a permanent position. The proprietor has many advantages for making it as distinguished for the excellence and the variety of its information, as for its cheapness and peculiar adaptedness to the wants of the cultivators of the soil. Co-operation, where the yearly investment is so small, can not impoverish any one, while the benefits conferred upon the community will bless all that subsist on the fruits of agriculture and horticulture. Improvement in these is emphatically a public matter, although the work of improvement is commenced and carried forward by a few only of the numbers who reap the rewards of such labors. Let no one wait for others to subscribe for the FARMER, but send in his name at once, and ask his friends and neighbors to do likewise.

FARMING IN CANADA.—The opening of the ports of the United States, which now contain over twenty-six millions of inhabitants, to all the products of Canadian agriculture, marks a new era in the rural industry of the Provinces. It gives us a large and valuable market at our doors for whatever our soil, climate and agricultural skill may call into existence, either to feed or clothe mankind; while it does not take from us one customer in any country whom we before had to consume our surplus staples. The cultivation of cotton, and other tropical and semi-tropical plants, constitutes so large a part of the agriculture of the United States, that our tillage and husbandry will not affect injuriously the business interests of farmers there, for consumption keeps up with production in all parts of the republic. Commerce equalizes the markets of the world; and our land and capital will hereafter enjoy the full benefit of this equalization. Encouraged by this auspicious change in our condition, every cultivator should promptly avail himself of the new advantages placed within his reach, and strive to add to his wealth by carefully studying both the capabilities of his farm and the wants of the community. Profits best reward those who, by a wise foresight, meet the growing necessities of the human family. Bread and meat are articles of prime necessity, and of universal consumption; and under a proper system of farm economy, Canada can grow wheat and other

cereals, and also the flesh of domestic animals, at such prices as will render this one of the richest countries in the world. It is true our summers are not long, and our winters are pretty severe; yet where the earth is skillfully cultivated, it rarely fails to yield remunerating harvests. Corn grows to full maturity in this Province in half the time required to ripen it in Mississippi and Texas. With us, vegetation is exceedingly rapid while it lasts; and we should so manure and otherwise prepare our lands that every crop may develop all its natural powers in the shortest possible interval between the seeding and gathering of the same. At the so-called "sunny South," crops grow the year round, and delays are less injurious. In Canada, much depends on the due preparation before hand, that one may have a plenty of hay to make "when the sun shines."

Fencing is one of the most expensive operations of the farm, and one that should be duly considered at this season of the year. If timber for rails is to be cut and split, and the latter hauled any distance, so manage the business as to use snow to facilitate the heavy transportation of them to the places required. Saw-logs and firewood may now be hauled (if the snow be not too deep) at the least expense to the thrifty farmer.

Timber and lumber of all kinds are becoming very scarce in the neighboring States; and it is respectfully suggested to our readers that they husband their timber until it will bring them a good price for exportation. Railways and other means will be provided for sending it to distant markets much sooner than many now expect; for in districts denuded of their native forests, few will attempt to grow timber so long as Canada shall have a surplus, however distant from her navigable waters. The time consumed in the growth of a tree serves to render a crop of timber immensely valuable, when it comes to be needed by the rapid increase of population, and the wants of inland and foreign commerce. Civilization is making sad havoc of the natural forests of this continent, and wise men will know how to profit by the popular folly.

DRAINAGE, AND DRAINAGE COMPANIES.—When we reflect upon the gradual advance in the value of land, and of cleared farms more particularly, which has been going on for some time past, and, coupled with this fact, take into account the rapid increase of population, and the consequent probability, in conjunction with other causes, that the prices of produce in this country are likely to continue remunerative, it can excite no surprise that the all-important operation of drainage is attracting the attention it so well merits. Long-established habits and prejudices are, we know, hard to break through; but necessity on the one hand, and a handsome profit on the other, are inducements which will take no refusal; and the time has come when, even in Canada, the farmer will find it impossible to maintain his position if he persist in attempting, with the knowledge and practice of the last century, to supply the wants of this.

It has been rightly said that "what is worth doing at all is worth doing well;" and in agriculture there is no operation in which this maxim is more true than in drainage, for under the most favorable circumstances the cost is con-