

To Roman Catholics and Protestants:

Methodists, Church of England men, Pagans, Quakers, Mormons, Dissenters, Deists, Atheists, White or Colored, Old or Young, Male or Female.

In our pages we do not wish to interfere with your religious creeds. We have, and intend to avoid discussion or condemnation of any particular class; but there is one subject in which we all should be interested,—that is, our duty on earth; for this is the place we all have to act. We believe that every one has a knowledge of good or evil. By different systems of training, a person may be infatuated by religious tenets of any kind, and the murderer or miser be equally seared by a hot iron, so as not to be fit to judge or act, except as regards dollars and cents. Let us each ask ourselves,—Do we ever think of the blessings we enjoy? Can we look on the struggles, trials, suffering and death around us without being thankful that we are spared? Can we picture to ourselves the awful calamity of war, earthquakes, floods, and insurrections, which have recently sent millions of fellow-creatures to their last home, and caused ruin, destruction and despair to millions more? Are you one that has been spared these awful trials? Has our country been blessed with peace and prosperity? Are you adding to your hoarded wealth? In Europe, millions are expended by private charity to alleviate the sufferings caused by the war alone. What are we doing? Have we any home duties to perform? When the fire destroyed part of Quebec did not Europe come to our aid? We hope there is honorable spirit enough among us to see that the hundreds of poor, deserving persons who have lost their crops, buildings, stock, clothing, everything but life, by the dire and awful calamity of fire, will not be allowed to freeze or starve, but be enabled to erect buildings, procure seed and implements, and again be in a position to maintain themselves and their families. We all know that there is no such thing as a poor house where the poor can obtain food, clothing or shelter. In the cities we find hundreds of poor, many deserving of charity, that have the door shut in their faces, from actual inability to help them with justice, for duty as well as charity begins at home, and we must first see that our own are fed and clad before we dole out to others. Nearly every one has been making property or money in this part of Canada. No appeal has been made to us to help our poor, suffering countrymen; but we hope that each of the parties named in the heading of this article will vie with each other in lending a helping hand, when it is needed. We earnestly request each of you to read the following letter:

Editor Farmer's Advocate,
March, County of Carleton, Ont.,
Nov. 10th, 1870.

Sir,—You requested my brother to let you know how the potatoes he had from you turned out. He desires me to state that the season has been against all crops. It is not fair to speak of anything except by comparison with others of similar nature. The ground had not once been saturated from the melting of the snow until after the dreadful fires in August. The rain that checked the fire made all things grow nicely for the first time, but the rain has only this week gone to the roots, all before has been surface.

From one bushel and a quarter of Harrison potatoes we have 26 bushels; from the same

of Early Rose about 20 bushels, but they were ripe before the rain. The Early Goodrich and Calicos have not answered at all. Our own seed potatoes, Garnet Chillies and Cups, were about one-third less, the Cups perhaps nearer half as many,—so that we may say the Harrison and Early Rose were by far the best of our crop, compared with the seed planted. —The flower seeds did not come up to speak of till after the fire, then it was too late for blossoms.

I can't tell you the horrors of that fire on the 12th of August. You can judge for yourself, if ever you have seen one, what ours was. There are (or were) 95 families left not only without houses, but not a barn, stable, shed or fence was spared, and the crops, growing or housed, all were swept away. A change of wind saved our house, and the homestead on the river front, but I went on the hill about three in the morning of the 18th instant, and saw all on the other side, as far as the eye could reach, a sea of flame. All the fences, men's houses, &c., with our best crops, were burnt, and we have to purchase almost all things. We have now to support for the winter my brother Arthur and family, as he lost everything, only life and his wagon saved.—James fears he can't get up a club for your paper this year, as the people have no money. He begs me to ask you the price of Oats—a good, clean seed, he says, is what he wants.—He can't afford to give a fancy price, but good seed he must have, if only twenty bushels.—The spring wheat you liked is almost lost, as those who purchased from us, with one exception, were burnt.

I ought to have said 95 families in March, as there was Torbolton, Huntley, Gourthowen and Nepean, all in our county, burnt out as well as March. Most of the people are reduced from affluence to poverty, but thanks to the liberality of our fellow countrymen there has been a start given to most, though it is only in a small way. If we can hold on until next year's crops come in, the county will prosper again.

The Paragon Grain Crusher we got from you does famously.

Believe me, yours truly,

MILLCENT READ.

If any of our subscribers feel inclined to aid these poor creatures with seed, food, clothing or funds, we shall be happy to forward it to them, if left at this office.

If any of you know of a more suitable person in the vicinity of these great fires than our correspondent, to distribute relief among the needy, we do not. The letter has not been sent to us for a begging purpose, but for agricultural information.—The writer we have never seen, but from past correspondence we will vouch for her integrity. We may be imposing too much on Miss Reed, but you may rely upon it this is no made up plan to extort money, grain, clothing, or food from you, as this article is written without the knowledge or consent of Miss Reed, and we hope may not be written in vain.

Your worldly goods are placed in your control only for a short time, and it behooves you to act justly with them while you have the power.

Even bishops, priests and preachers that welt the cushion on Sundays may read and contemplate on Miss Reed's letter.

Spring Wheat.

Nearly all our subscribers in this part of the Dominion are anxiously looking to us for some information regarding this grain. We advised our readers not to sow much, if any, and depend on purchasing rather than raising it. We had one hope of being able to furnish you with a variety that we thought bid fair to be of value to us. It was imported by the brother of one of our respected fair correspondents—Miss M. Reed, whose writings have always been welcomed by us—one of whose letters appears in another part of this paper, (see it

under the heading of Roman Catholics, &c.) As Miss Reed's brother had received from Turkey a variety of spring wheat which had answered much better with those who had tried it, than any other spring wheat in that part of the county, and explains the reason of our not being able to supply you with a new kind of wheat from which we might expect to receive a profit. The aggregate loss to the farmers in this county alone, for the past few years, on spring wheat alone, would make an enormous sum.

We could procure from the north and east some good samples of varieties that have failed here, but we have little faith in disseminating them. We do not wish to send from our establishment any seed we have not confidence in; and we have yet to find a spring wheat that we can recommend. Some of the known varieties have done fairly, and even well, in some spots, but in the majority of instances that have come under our notice, each kind has been more or less a failure. We shall do our utmost to try and procure any that we may think would be of advantage to us. If any of our readers, or our exchange agricultural editors could furnish with any information of any variety that is doing well, we should feel thankful to them.

Christmas Presents.

There is a time for all things. Many of you believe in the Bible. Thousands attend at some public place of worship.—Some think that their continued attendance there, with the occasional donation of a cent, 5 cents, a quarter of a dollar, or more, combined with a long sanctified phiz, will ensure them a passport to eternal bliss. Some of our pagans may consider their five weeks harvest feast, dancing and reciprocal feelings at that time, will put them to rights. Some may consider that paying a few dollars to an intercessor will send their souls to heaven. Some again may think that time and change happeneth to all, and all is done for them.

We may be wrong, as we undoubtedly often have been, but whether from instinct or early customs, we have always looked upon the Christmas season as a time of rejoicing, more particularly so than any other period of the year. The laborious time of sowing, harvesting and threshing are all passed. You have all had ample time to dispose of some of your surplus produce, and the Christmas season, with farmers, is the time when we have most leisure to enjoy, and cause others to enjoy, the happy meetings of parents and children, and the social visits of friends. This old and deservedly time-honored season of enjoyment, we hope may be as much looked forward to by young and old, as it has been in England. We may all now talk and think of the world to come, but let us ask ourselves, What are we placed on this earth for? Is there not a time for enjoyment? Is it not our duty to endeavor to make others happy? Have we no aged parents or friends that we can at this season make more happy? Are all our debts of gratitude paid? Is there no wrong that we have ever done, that we can now make right?

To the aged and prosperous. Are the blessings and the wealth which is placed under your control hoarded and laid past

by you, to be expended after your death in feeing lawyers, or to be squandered by some one that has no respect for you?—As we heard the remark of the son of a wealthy, close-fisted old farmer, who had never aided him,—“the old man will never take off his coat before he goes to bed.” There is a time to act and a duty to perform by each one of us. We never can forget the kindness and consideration that has been shown to us by endearing parents and friends; and we believe that no act of a dying person will ever endear them equal to the real life acts of life.

We hope that none of our readers, even if they have been burned out by the disastrous fire spoken of in another part of this paper, will find their circumstances so crippled but that they will be able, in this joyful season, to give their little daughter a 5 cent doll, or their son a 10 cent knife, or even a stick of candy each. Those that are blessed with greater wealth might present their sons with a book, an agricultural paper, a few choice seeds or a good animal, or even give them a ditching machine to make a start in the world with. If given in time it might place the boys on the right course of industry and honesty. To the girls you might give a pair of good fowls, a young cow, a weaving loom, a sewing machine, or a melodeon. Some may even go beyond these without exceeding their duty. However much we may have acted contra, our belief is that our moral and spiritual duty first begins at home.

Hoping to hear from you all shortly, and that you may all spend a

HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

The Pork Business.

To the Hon. John Carling, Commissioner of Agriculture.

As the interests of the farmers of Canada are much affected by the prices we receive for our produce, and as pork is raised for sale by the majority of farmers and is one of our main and staple crops from which the most of us depend for the payment of our taxes, rents and store bills, it is of consequence that we should receive full value for it, which at the present time we do not, because of the admission of pork from the States. The Canadian pork is better than much of the imported pork. Large quantities of American pork have been sent to Canada to be re-shipped, to benefit from the good name which our produce has attained! Also, the Americans are supplying our lumbermen and fishermen with their pork, to the injury of our own producers.

The Americans make us pay a very heavy duty on any of our productions that we wish to send to them. Why should we be compelled to make the great sacrifice of giving them the benefit of our market? This question may not appear of much importance to those residing in cities and in lumbering and fishing districts; but it really is taking hundreds of thousands of dollars out of the farmer's pockets, and giving it to the Americans.

We hope, for the benefit of the Agricultural class, that this importation of American pork may be speedily and effectually checked. We think the farming interest should be as much looked after and protected as the manufacturers or dealers.