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FARMERS' ADVOCATE

THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

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WILLIAM WELD,
Editor & Proprietor.

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NEW YEAR.

Since we laid before the farming interest of Ontario our first number, with the determination of providing—what we then believed to be its great want—a monthly journal which should labor for the agricultural prosperity of the country. At first it was a venture and unaided, lacked to a certain extent, that vigor essential to secure the interest and co-operation of the great body to whom it was especially addressed. We had faith that a body so strong and influential as the farmers are, would support us. From the first, we have received the most flattering testimonials, and we may add that they have been accompanied with such solid support, that the publication has now become an established fact. How far we have kept the promises we made at starting, we are content to leave to the judgment of those who have honored us with their support. We have now a mail list of over 4,000, and hope to double it during the current year. In the future we shall not hesitate to speak—as we have hitherto spoken—boldly of what we believe to be abuses, and if we do not command support, will, at least, endeavor to deserve it. In laboring faithfully for the interests of agriculture, we shall proclaim plain truth without fear or favor, and will never shrink from the post of duty because it is unpopular. We know no compromise with wrong, and will vindicate the right without regard to party or high station, with unquailing vigor. The "Advocate" has risen fast in public estimation, and is rapidly finding its way into circles that at first denounced it. To the farmers who have honored us with their support and who have contributed to our pages, we return our most grateful thanks, and we trust that you will still continue to favor us in our extended sphere of action, and we hope to

be enabled to bring together a more diversified and complete record of agricultural events, than has ever been presented to the farming community of Ontario. To our advertising friends by whom we have been most liberally supported, we would tender our sincere thanks for past favors. We trust, that if they continue to patronize us, we shall henceforth be enabled to bring their notices before a more extended field of readers, than has hitherto been our good fortune to effect.

We hope the New Year may be a happy and prosperous one to our readers, and solicit the aid and patronage of our old supporters and hope they may use their influence to increase the circulation, of the *Advocate*.

FARMER'S CLUBS.

Should farmers organize classes or societies for the discussion of topics immediately concerning themselves? We assume the affirmative of this question. The time is past we trust when a selfish spirit will prompt men to conceal the means by which superior results are attained. Many secrets have been retained in families, that have been the means of surrounding them with wealth. Superior privileges have been conferred upon them and general industry proportionately suffered. But an era of better times has dawned upon us, and men begin to realize that there is a law that renders one man responsible to a certain extent for the lack of success of another. Within limits of certain though unknown extent, man is his own master, the arbiter of his own fate, and knowledge tends downward an extension of those limits. The union of knowledge and a desire to diffuse that knowledge forms the prevailing feature of this age. Presuming then that experience

imparts knowledge, the question arises how can this best be made known. Scientific men are continually meeting in Conventions where they compare notes and map out future labor. Pet theories are exploded in the face of stubborn facts and they return home wiser and better men. There is not a class of men who neglect these important means of information, unless it is farmers. Yet there is no class whose success depends so much on experience. Fairs do not serve the end. We see at them the result, but the system of culture is unknown. They foster agriculture by promoting a spirit of rivalry, but here there influence for good ceases. The remedy for this unsatisfactory state of things consists in active working farmer's clubs. Do not ask what can we discuss? Has not every locality its special peculiarities, and every section its climatic distinctions? There is a vast difference between a sandy soil and a clay one, and a plan of culture appropriate to each. These are questions of vital moment and must be calmly discussed and argued by the light of experience. Then there is different breeds of stock. One may have an inferior kind, and only retain them, because he has never closely examined the subject. State plainly the kind, their habits, and the average returns. By so doing a neighborhood may become several thousand dollars richer in improved stock at even less cost than it took to maintain the old "corn-crib" style. Then one neighbor may have a successful yield of some variety of grain, that has signally failed in the majority of instances. Learn the time it was sowed, the kind of soil, and any other facts that may strike you at the time. True these may be called trifles, but it is upon such trifles that the agricultural prosperity of this country depends. Many beautiful sections of this country have been im-