

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

VOL. XIII.

LONDON, ONT., JULY, 1878.

NO. 7.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

The Farmer's Advocate

—AND—
HOME MAGAZINE.
 PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WILLIAM WELLS.
 OFFICE:—ADVOCATE BUILDING, LONDON, ONT.

TO SUBSCRIBERS:
 TERMS.—\$1 per annum, postage paid; \$1.25 when in arrears. Single copies 10 cents each.
 We cannot change the address of a subscriber unless he gives us his former as well as his present address.
 Subscribers should always send their subscriptions by registered letter, and give their name and post office address in full. Subscriptions can commence with any month.
 Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as wishing to continue their subscriptions.

TO ADVERTISERS:
 Our rates for single insertion are 20c. per line—\$2.40 per inch, space of nonpareil (a line consists on an average of eight words).
 Manufacturers and Stock Breeders' cards inserted in "Special List" at \$1 per line per annum.
 Condensed farmers' advertisements of agricultural implements, seeds, stock or farms for sale, or farms to let, not to exceed four lines, 50c., prepaid.
 Advertising accounts rendered quarterly.
 Advertisements, to secure insertion and required space, should be in by 20th of each month.
 Letters enclosing remittances, &c., only acknowledged when specially requested. Our correspondence is very heavy and must be abridged as much as possible.

THE EXHIBITION NUMBER

OF

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND

Home Magazine

Will be issued as usual on or about the 15th of September next.

From the liberal support given to our issue of 1877, and the great benefits which accrued to advertisers from the mammoth issue, our promise is simply a more careful, more extensive, and more useful circulation, and a better number in every respect. Space can now be reserved. Further particulars in other issues.

On the Wing.

ARKANSAS.

(Continued from June No.)

The road from Little Rock to Fort Smith is perhaps the most pleasing line for a northern agriculturist to travel, as wheat is to be seen growing in many places along the line, and grass more abundantly at the terminus of the road. There were a few pieces of wheat that looked very well, but the greater portion appeared inferior, the season not being a favorable one for that cereal. Numerous new villages were springing up along the line, some of which looked very pretty, and in some future day may become towns and cities. Black walnut logs and lumber were being loaded on the cars at some of the stations. This road rises some 600 feet above Little Rock. There is much hilly and broken land along the line. A rough life has been led by the pioneers of this country. Many of the old settlers were opposed to the railway being run through their hunting grounds; in fact, they dislike the advancing state of improvements and seek

the retirement of the hills in the interior. A neat little clearing and small house lying along the railroad was pointed out to us, being owned by one of the old settlers. He wished to sell and go back, not liking the railroad, and would take \$5 per acre for his farm. This appeared very cheap to us; if the same land was in Canada, within a hundred miles of our office, it would be worth \$50 or \$100 per acre. A Canadian has purchased about 1,000 acres near Van Buren, and taken a car load of Durham cattle up there.

Some of the scenery was so pleasing that we instructed our artist to make the accompanying illustration, drawn from our remembrance of some of the scenery near Van Buren, which will be found on page 153 of this issue. Grape vines were hanging in some places, drooping from the topmost branches of the trees and running from one tree to another, forming festoons so grand and pleasing that pen or artist cannot but fail to describe or depict the scene. Large dining tents were erected in one or two places for picnics. The railway excavation is made at the spur of a mountain at one place, where large rocks are almost overhanging the road. The Arkansas River flowing near the foot of the hills gives a pleasing effect. Our attempt to illustrate this is rather difficult; we must leave you to imagine its beauty. The largest grape-vine stem we have ever seen is in the office of the Iron Mountain R. R. Co.; it is 11 inches in diameter and 33 inches in circumference, and had grown three feet high nearly as large as at the butt of the log. This we presume is the largest grape-vine stem in the world.

Fort Smith is on the borders of the Indian Territory. The old Government fort and barracks are mouldering away, but the graves of the slain are kept green and in fine order. The Government has erected a large and substantial wall around a large space, and has assembled some 10,000 of the slain soldiers therein, erecting marble tablets for each and keeping the ground in good order, at an expense of some \$10,000 per annum. This is perhaps the most imposing feature at Fort Smith, although there is a brisk trade done there. As we were taking an early morning walk we saw a young man lying out on the open prairie fast asleep. We spoke; he awoke and informed us he had no money to pay for a bed, and was looking for work. The day we were at Fort Smith an alligator was caught six feet in length; this is an animal like a crocodile, but has no legs; its principal food is fish, and some say that small boys are not despised by these gentlemen, but we did not hear of any that had been swallowed by them. These animals are ugly looking creatures.

Fruits, vegetables and grass were growing luxuriantly here. The emigrants' wagons were seen, some going west, some north and some south. These emigrant wagons are a great institution in this vast country; they are seen almost hourly, sometimes in numbers, sometimes singly. When

at St. Louis we had the curiosity to observe one unloading, in order to hoist it on the top deck of a steambot. Its contents were composed of a man, woman, four children, an old stove, bundle of bed clothes, pair of old boots—toes out, a rusty saw, old axe, rusty gun, bag of corn meal, barrel of pork, tea kettle, wash tub, two pine boxes, pot, pail, two old gourds for water, a rusty, plain old ox-yolk, a bit of a chain and an old rasp. We think the whole lot would not have brought ten dollars, without the wagon and team, if sold in our market; yet the owner had worked for years to get his team and outfit, and was moving from Indiana to Texas. It appeared pretty hard, but such are many of the movers. The moving, roving population in the vast Western and Southern States is immense.

When traveling through Illinois on the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis R. R., we were much pleased with the great change made in the appearance of that vast level prairie. Buckthorn and Osage orange hedges now cut up the vast plain, and give it the appearance of comfort and prosperity. Thousands of miles of live fences, wind-breaks and shelters are now to be seen where all appeared devastation and waste. When we first traveled over this line, about fifteen years ago, in one place we saw a very fine block of maples, perhaps twenty acres thick and in row, forming a very handsome grove; they were now about twenty five feet high, and had grown on the prairie since we were there.

There was a vast difference in the appearance of the hedges; some were well kept, and made good, substantial fences; others were neglected and were useless as fences.

As many of our readers are now wishing to know what is to be done, as rail timber is becoming scarce and dear and the old fences are decaying, we have had a few cuts engraved to show the different appearances of the hedge when well kept and when neglected, and give you information about their proper management.

Harvesting.

The advantages of cutting wheat and other cereals before becoming what is generally considered matured, cannot be too strongly impressed on farmers. It is true, many are fully aware of this very important fact. They know that both grain and straw are of better quality if cut some days before it would be fully ripe. Men of science tell us that it has been repeatedly proved by most accurate experiments that there are obtained by early cutting a greater number of bushels of wheat to the acre, a greater weight of flour to the bushel, and the flour of better quality when the wheat is harvested before being dead ripe. And they but confirm that which was known to many observant practical farmers whose only science was their own experience. And the same observations are correct regarding oats and other grain crops, barley excepted.