

Farm of General Rawson Harmon.

When returning from the New York State Fair we visited General Harmon, and was so much delighted with many features of his farm management, that we promised him, when an opportunity presented, we should treat the Canadian farmers with a brief history of his agricultural operations. To redeem this pledge in full would occupy more space than we have at present at our command. We shall therefore briefly hint at a few outlines of his agricultural operations, and may at some future time take up the subject, with the view of rendering it that justice which it so obviously merits.

Wheat land principally consists of that description of soil which is known upon this continent as "oak openings." The leading features of which consist of a mixture of clay, sand, and limestone gravel, in nearly equal parts, and is probably on the whole the most barren in vegetable matter of any of the soils in North America. The surface of the country is beautifully undulating, and the hills within a few feet of the surface are embedded with white and grey gypsum in inexhaustible quantities, and the valleys are stored with carbonated lime to an almost equal extent. As the name of the town would indicate, it is distinguished for its superior adaptation for the wheat crop. The soil is dry, porous, and contains only about five per cent of vegetable matter, and hence rust is almost unknown in this region. With this cursory geological description of the district, we will at once proceed to General Harmon's mode of farming, which, with a very slight variation, is practiced by the principal farmers in the town of Wheatland. The crops grown upon Mr. Harmon's farm consist principally of wheat and clover.—About one-third of his land is annually sown with wheat, and with this crop he invariably seeds down with clover. After mowing the first crop of clover, the sheep are turned into the fields and continued there until late in the autumn;—the second year's growth is also fed with these animals until late in June, at which time they are broken up and fallowed. In breaking up the fallows, the furrows are ploughed to the depth of eight or nine inches, and in the course of the summer a common two-horse cultivator is employed two or three times to keep down the weeds and to expose new surfaces of the soil to the action of the atmosphere. The fallows are

cross-ploughed to the depth of five inches, from the middle of August to the first of September, and without further preparation the wheat is sown at the rate of five pecks per acre, from the eighth to the fifteenth of September. The seed is sown with a sowing machine and covered with a gang plough, which implement consists of five ploughs so constructed in a frame, that they operate from two to four inches in depth, and plough to the width of five feet, by which operation the seed is covered, pretty much after the style of ploughing in with an ordinary plough, but with much greater facility; the common cultivator is also used for the same purpose. Before sowing the seed it is prepared by soaking it in strong brine, after which it is dried in June at the rate of two quarts of lime to a bushel of wheat, and is allowed to lie in lime twelve hours before sowing. About ten or twelve acres is annually sown with oats, after which crop the ground is ploughed in the autumn, and the following spring manured at the rate of thirty two-horse waggon loads of barn-yard manure per acre, which is ploughed in and planted with corn and potatoes. A small twelve-rowed variety of corn is principally used, which is usually planted about the 20th of May, and is ready for harvesting by the 1st of September. As soon as the corn and pumpkins are removed off the land the ground is ploughed and sown with wheat, which most generally yields the most productive crop upon the farm.

Mr. Harmon annually cultivates about fifty varieties of winter wheat, but his main crop consists of a justly celebrated variety, known as "General Harmon's improved white flint wheat." His average yield of wheat for a series, say of eight years, has equalled about 25 bushels per acre, and that of corn for the same term, about 40 bushels per acre. Both smut and chess are entirely strangers to him, or in other words he is not troubled with either of those pests. The farmer who formerly occupied this farm, used to grow chess in abundance, and was one of those who could not be persuaded but that wheat would turn to chess; and entertaining this opinion, it was not to be expected that he would be at any trouble in cleaning his land and seed, with a view of preventing the recurrence of chess among his crops. The present occupier, by close observation, had learned that those who sowed chess must expect to reap thus worthless