

## PROFESSOR BUCKLAND'S TOUR IN THE COUNTY OF WELLAND.

*To E. W. Thomson, Esq., President of the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada.*

SIR,—I have much pleasure in transmitting to you for the information of the Board of Agriculture, some account of my recent visit to the County of Welland, where I spent a very agreeable week. I was the guest of Captain Radcliffe, the respected and indefatigable President of the County Agricultural Society, who kindly conducted me through the county, and introduced me to many of the principal agriculturalists and leading professional and commercial men. My notice of many things must necessarily be very brief, and others must be allowed to pass without even an allusion.

On Friday, June 20th, I left Toronto by the Great Western for Thorold, where I was met by my good friend Capt. Radcliffe. Thorold is evidently a rising place, and situated on the escarpment of lime and sand stone, which on the South-western shore of Lake Ontario, forms a very striking physical feature. Its close proximity to that magnificent work, the Welland Canal affords it many important advantages. Mr. John Morley is doing here a rather extensive business in the manufacture of agricultural implements. His ploughs, constructed on the Scotch-swing principle, are much approved of in the country. They are made of iron or wood, the latter being more common, and are getting into general use. I saw some good work done by them in several places.

Next day we drove through the northern portion of the township of Thorold, and called on several farmers. Mr. Wm. Ash, in what is called the Beaver-Dam settlement, has some of the most approved modern implements, and his cultivation seems good, and as a consequence his crops were generally heavy. Grade cows excellent, with a large dash of improved Durham blood, indicating the advantages where a breed of pure-blooded animals are not kept, of crossing our best native cows with that world-renowned breed. Mr. Ash has a flock of Leicester and Down sheep, well bred and in a thriving condition. I observed an English thorn hedge, which appeared to be thriving. Mr. Russell has also a hedge of considerable extent, a portion consisting of American Thorn in a very growing state, the rest is made of the locust, which is inferior. These hedges did not appear to have suffered from the depredations of mice, which have proved so disastrous to young fruit trees in particular, during the peculiarly inclement season of last winter the subject of live hedges is beginning to engage the attention of farmers in this country, as well as in others of early settlement. As yet experience in this matter, which is in many places becoming every year of more pressing importance, has not been sufficiently extended to lead to positive conclusions as to what particular materials are the best for making live fences. Although I have seen a few instances of the ordinary English hawthorn looking healthy and promising, yet I am strongly inclined to the opinion, from all that I have observed and heard, that our own native thorn, when properly treated, will answer better. Hedges, like fruit trees, or the ordinary crops of the farm, require, and will amply repay for all the rational treatment and care that can be bestowed upon them. We afterwards called on the Rev. Dr. Fuller, who, like many clergymen in the mother country, takes a lively interest in rural pursuits, and has labored to extend the knowledge and improve the education of farmers. Mr. Fuller does not now farm extensively. He has some excellently bred carriage horses. Clover very heavy on strong clay soil. In the evening I met and addressed a small number of farmers, and a few others, in the village of Allanburgh, and afterwards spent an agreeable hour in conversation on various matters pertaining to agricultural improvement, in which Messrs Wright, Colman and McCoppin took the principal part. I learnt both here and elsewhere in the country, that the practice of sowing timothy seed with wheat in the fall, was yearly extending with