



The Field.

Woodbridge Agricultural Works.

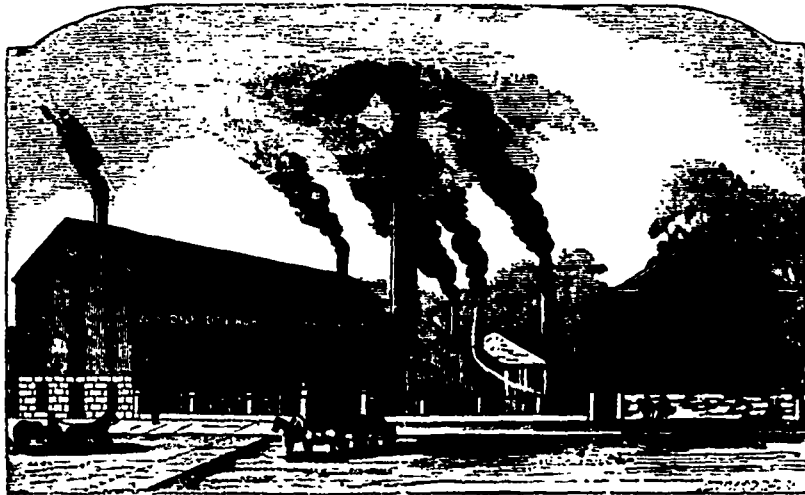
THE above-named works, of which we give here-with an engraved representation, are located in the village of Woodbridge, Township of Vaughan, and County of York. Having recently paid them a visit, we are glad to be able to give our readers some particulars concerning them. In common with all similar establishments that we have visited, the hum and bustle, the hurrying to and fro, the abundance of raw material, and scarcity of the finished article, plainly indicate the extensive demand there is for agricultural machinery, and prove the general prosperity which exists all over the country. We know of no manufacturer of farm implements who is not straitened for shop room, deluged with orders, and unable to satisfy the existing demand. This is a good augury, and not the least of its many advantages is this—that while there is room for honorable competition, there is no temptation to ungenerous rivalry. All have ample scope to work, and may heartily wish each other well.

The proprietor of the Woodbridge works, Mr. John Abell, commenced business at his present location in 1849. The buildings represented in the accompanying illustration were erected in 1860, but have recently been thoroughly overhauled, and freshened up exteriorly by repairing, so that they look "as good as new." Extensive as they are, they do not furnish sufficient scope for the business now done, and an additional shop, one hundred feet long by thirty-six feet wide, is about to be erected. Upwards of sixty hands are in regular employ in the several departments, which consist of a foundry with blasting furnace; a smithery with four forges; a carpenters' shop completely furnished with planing, morticing, sawing and boring machines; a machinists' shop with lathes for every description of turning, large shears, and machines for making bolts, cog-wheels, punching and cutting gear, and screw threads of all sizes; a roomy paint shop; and large pattern store-house. A trip hammer is in course of erection. Hand labour is dispensed with as much as possible, and machinery employed whenever practicable. Mr. Abell is a thorough machinist, and when he wants a labour-saving contrivance, appears to be at no loss to invent one if it be not ready to his hand. Some ingenious expedients for lessening hand labour and expediting

work may be seen in his factory, and he has several patents on parts of his machinery—that on the gearing of his threshing-machine being especially noteworthy. A suit for infringement of this patent is pending between Mr. Abell and the Hall Agricultural Works in Oshawa. An engine of twenty-five horse-power, manufactured by Mr. Abell himself, supplies the motive force by which the machinery in these shops is driven, and some idea of its excellence may be gathered from the fact, that though in constant operation for upwards of six years, it has not yet required any alterations or repairs. A great variety of work is done at this establishment. First and foremost, all the machinery required in grist and saw-mills is here manufactured. Next may be mentioned threshing-machines. Some account was given in our 1st. Jan. issue of the present year, of the distinctive features and excellences of the thresher manufactured at these works. We are glad to find that it commands ready sale, and that no fewer than one hun-

cutter-bar ten inches longer than usual. About one hundred mowers and reapers have been manufactured at these works the present year, and as a novel, yet effective method of advertising the reapers, Mr. Abell has had one in operation among the farmers during the harvest which has just been gathered. The self-raking attachment gives great satisfaction, from the fact that it saves the work of two hands in the harvest field. Among other articles made at this establishment, we may mention Birdsell's clover thresher and huller, a first-class machine for threshing, hulling, and cleaning clover, capable of preparing for market from twenty to thirty bushels per day. Portable steam engines are also manufactured here, and Mr. Abell is perfecting his arrangements for getting up a ten horse-power engine with two oscillating cylinders, the whole made as light as possible, and so constructed as to do stationary work, such as driving a threshing machine, and also to be used as a traction engine. A crushing mill for coarse grinding barley, oats, peas and corn, is another machine which is made at this establishment, and is well worthy the attention of farmers. Drag saws, straw-cutters, and a combined roller and clod-crusher, which was figured and described in our issue of Feb. 1 last, are also made here, together with several styles of plough, among which an excellent moulding or ridging plough for potatoes, turnips, &c., and the "Eclipse," a general purpose plough, particularly attracted our notice.

Mr. Abell is preparing to manufacture a ditching machine, of the success of which he entertains very sanguine hopes. It is the invention of Mr. Henry Carter, of Aylmer, and was exhibited



dred are being turned out at the present season. Pitt's horse-power is the one made at these works to supply the driving force required by the thresher. All things considered, this is probably the best horse-power in use, as it stands wear and tear better than any other. Mowers and reapers in three styles are manufactured by Mr. Abell: Ball's Ohio as a combined machine, Cayuga Junr., as a single mower, and Wood's self-raker as a single reaper. There is no better combined machine in the world than Ball's Ohio, and Wood's reaper stands at the head of its class. We saw it at the Michigan State Fair, laden with the honors it had just reaped at the French Exposition. Of the merits of Cayuga Junr. as a mower, we cannot speak so highly, being under the impression that there are other mowers equally good, if not better. The Ball's Ohio made here is furnished with a

at the last Provincial Show. Since then some improvements have been made in it, so as to adapt it both to light and heavy soils. It is very desirable that an effective ditcher should be introduced into every locality. It would greatly facilitate that most necessary operation, draining, for want of which so many farms are suffering, and the general prevalence of which is imperatively called for, if we are to be distinguished for any agricultural progress worthy the name.

Mr. Carter's drain tile ditching-machine was exhibited at the recent exhibition at Kingston, and was recommended by the judges as deserving of an extra prize. Mr. Abell's splendid threshing machine was also on the ground, and, as on former occasions, gained the first premium. The material, the workmanship, and finish of this machine, are all first class.