

A TREAT IN STORE.

We had hoped quietly to have taken our readers by surprise with a contribution from the pen of Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, in our first number. When we intimated to him the probability of our commencing this periodical, he was kind enough to say : "*Put me down as your first subscriber, and I'll write you an article for your first number.*" On deciding to proceed with the contemplated undertaking, we informed Mr. B. of the fact, and claimed fulfilment of the promise he had given us. He promptly replied, intimating his readiness to furnish the promised article, named his subject, and enquired when the copy would be wanted. We informed him that we should like his manuscript by January 6th, but would wait a day or two rather than go to press without it. On the 8th instant we received the following communication :

"REV. W. F. CLARKE :

"BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—I cannot fulfil your request for an article for your first number, as your request came so late, that my time has been over-full. I hope to say a word in season for your second number. I am glad that you are launched on your new enterprise. You ought to have a good support, and I do not doubt that you will have it, and that without prejudice to any existing interest.

"Wishing you every success,

"I am, truly yours,

HENRY WARD BEECHER."

Our readers may therefore expect to see the promised contribution in our next issue. Its subject will be : "**MY MISTAKES IN FARMING.**"

A DEFECT IN LEGISLATION.

While authors are protected by copyright, and inventors by patent laws, there exists nowhere in the civilized world, so far as we know, any legal provision for securing to the originator of a new plant, flower or fruit, the due reward of his labors. Such things are not accomplished without an amount of patient thought, persevering experiment, and scientific research, quite equal to the toils of the author and the inventor. Yet, no sooner are these results of the labor of years offered for sale, than the producer's chance of gain is virtually lost, because of the rapid multiplication of the novelty he has given to the world. Surely this is not just. While the most

minute improvements in a machine are protected by patent, and not a few simple expedients that ought to be public property are similarly restricted, a plant, flower or fruit, however valuable, yields its originator no profit after his first sale, which is not shared by anybody and everybody who chooses to engage in multiplying it. In this age of reform such a wrong ought to be redressed.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGRICULTURAL BILL.—Just as we go to press, we learn that the Hon. Mr. Carling has introduced a Bill to amend the Act of last Session. It provides for the safe deposit of Association funds; prompt payment of prize moneys; dissolution of Union Township Societies; and legalization of the votes of all members of Agricultural Societies who have paid their annual subscriptions prior to voting.

AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT No. 6.—We learn that the Hon. David Reesor, of Markham, is a candidate for election from this district to the Board of Agriculture. It comprises York, Ontario, Peel, Cardwell, and the City of Toronto.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.—Mr. T. J. Day, of Guelph, sends us a sample of each of the following well known annuals :

British Workman, sent by mail to any address for 45 cents. *Band of Hope Review*, 35 cents. *Children's Friend*, 45 cents. *Infants' Magazine*, 45 cents.

The Farm.

CHARLOCK OR WILD MUSTARD.

This agrarian weed (*Sinapis arvensis*) seems to follow in the wake of cultivation through all the temperate regions of the globe. Of late years it has found its way, in common with other weeds from Europe, into the Australian Colonies and New Zealand, while for a generation or two it has proved a troublesome pest in various places of British America and the United States. In Canada, and our own Province of Ontario, we sometimes see the surface of whole fields covered by an almost unbroken sheet of yellow, to the great injury, if not exclusion, of the cultivated crop. Turnips, barley, and other spring grains are peculiarly liable to be injured by this pest.

Charlock belongs to the genus *Sinapis*, which comprises several species of annual cruciferous plants, marked by brilliant yellow flowers, with