

THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

VOLUME V.

DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.

NUMBER 9.

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Editor and Proprietor.

LONDON, ONT., SEPT, 1870.

\$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid.
Office—Dundas St., opp. City Hotel.

The Farmer's Advocate

LONDON, ONT., SEPT. 1870.

The Farmer's Advocate for 1871.

To our Supporters and the Public.

Our circulation is rapidly increasing, and with it our expenses also increase—as we have, since we commenced to publish this journal twice doubled its size, and in many other ways improved it. We believe you are all fully convinced that we have exceeded our promises. Not one of you that subscribed for the paper at the commencement of 1870, dreamed of the great increase in the size of the paper, and the improvement in its quality, that you have been receiving for months past. We have every reason to believe that you are satisfied with our editorials, our contributed articles and our selections. We pity any person that cannot find information in its pages worth to them twenty times the price. We think that no head of a family who wishes the success and happiness of his children, would deprive them of it after it is once introduced to the household. We have vainly expected that our government would ere this have abolished the obnoxious postage tax on agricultural information,—costing us for each single subscriber 12 cents a-year, or one cent a number. Our postage alone has often cost us over \$50 a month.

We are not complaining to you that we cannot afford to send you the paper in its improved form for the money we now receive, but we wish further to improve the paper and to give you more information; to expend more for engravings, and to be able to send supplements when occasion requires. We had contemplated sending supplements last year, but we think you will all be better pleased with the enlarged size. To enable us to carry out our designs, we intend to maintain our subscription price at \$1 for single subscribers; in clubs of four or more, the price will be 75 cents, and we shall continue to pay the postage.

We believe that every friend will be satisfied with this course.

We wish to procure one good, active, reliable agent at every post office address in this Dominion, who will foot up our bills, canvass for subscribers, and take

orders for implements and seeds. Let them first send on a good club list; when they can do that effectually they will be suitable to act for all other things advertised for sale at the Canadian Agricultural Emporium. This may be a good opening for young, enterprising men on the farm who have a desire for business. Progress is our motto; let us have a good, hearty, tangible support from all.

The paper will be still in its non-political policy; and will be sent for the remainder of the year FREE to subscribers for 1871. Now is the time to subscribe!

The Editor Astray.

Among the communications in this paper will be found one from Mr. Robson, giving some valuable information, and correcting previous derogatory remarks made by us respecting the White Willow for fencing, and some general condemnatory remarks by an unknown writer, over the signature of "Skinflint." We do not know the writer by the name of "Skinflint," and believe the P. O. stamp will not give us the right clue. We are willing to acknowledge an error, when satisfied that we have been wrong.

The White Willow proved a failure in every instance we had heard of. All parties we had seen and conversed with on the subject, who had tried it, were dissatisfied. It is true that we have been too much confined to the labors of our office, to travel about the country as much as we should in order to examine the different modes of management. Therefore we condemned it, as none spoke in its favor, and we had seen several pieces that had been neglected. We did not give an opinion about it with the intention of injuring any person, but to prevent our readers from being duped by the noisy, loquacious and deceitful persons that are too often seen travelling through the country with some catchpenny humbug, such as the Maximilian Strawberry, or useless patent churns, patent seed sowers, patent gates, patent everything.

We do not wish to condemn all patents. Many of them are very valuable, and many ought to be condemned, in fact, should not have been granted. The great difficulty is to be able to judge correctly of all new inventions introduced. We

consider we have, up to the present, been extremely fortunate in bringing before our readers so many really good and valuable seeds and implements, and that we have been able to detect so many of those that are worthless. If we have ever condemned any thing, or any plan, that has been really for the advantage of the farmers of the Dominion, we are quite willing to acknowledge the error, if convinced of it.—But no one has attempted to gainsay our strictures except in this instance. If we brought forward anything having a tendency to injure the prosperity of our readers, or if we have neglected anything, we are quite willing to make correction.

Is it to be expected that your poor backwoods farmer is to be infallible? No mortal man ever has been. Your editor desires to give his readers as correct information as possible, and is willing to admit a possible error. It has been written,—“In the multiplicity of council there is wisdom;” and he has labored hard to form a body of agricultural “councillors,” but where are our independent, intelligent agriculturists? We will take Mr. Robert Robson as a sample. He has come forward without the anticipation of office, or the greed of gain, and unfettered by any party political feeling, which has been, and is the greatest drawback to agricultural independence to be found in this part of Canada,—he has endeavored to serve none but farmer's interests. He has never aspired to the position which his whole-souled nature entitled him to fill, and has never anticipated being any thing more than a real useful farmer. Being now about 75 years of age, his words are weighty; they are worth gold to the country. We would wish his brother was as untrammelled by the Johnstone's, Tooley's, Bullen's, Jones' and Gearey's,—and we should have had a farmer's club, a monthly free fair, and a more independent lot of farmers than we now have in this vicinity, men who would be able to discuss the merits of an implement, a plant, or an animal. Men that would not be led, as they too often are, by the power of some city, political, grasping, office seeking clog to prosperity. It would be well for the county if we had but three such men as Robert Robson in each Township. We have no doubt but his opinions, expressed in the columns of this paper many months since, have been the means of turning the

attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the introduction of agricultural education in our Common Schools. Let him or his advisers confute, if they deem proper.—We give the credit to Robert Robson, and consider he has done good to posterity by bringing it forward. Perhaps our readers are not aware that such is to be, but the works are now under a course of preparation for such a purpose. We think honor should be given where honor is due.—Where is one of our politicians that has done more good? Many farmers are similar to the poet's description:—

“Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its fragrance on the desert air.”

To you who follow his suggestions, give Robert Robson the honor due to him. We may be diverging from the point. We hope the White Willow may become known through Mr. Robson's correction of our remarks on it, as we much require a means of fencing, as our rail timber in many parts is well nigh gone, and we have not yet heard of a farmer in this country who has planted it for the purpose of making a rail of it yet. Cannot some of our readers give us their experience with Buck-Thorn and the Osage Orange, both of which are used for fencing, and we ought to know more about them; but Canada has not a well-established farmer's club in its dominion that we know of. Could nothing be done to aid the establishment of such? Would there not be a prospect of as much good being done for the country as by the Gardeners' Association? Who will aid it? Who will use their pen as Mr. Robson has done, to enlighten their brother farmers? Is there no Member of Parliament, President or Secretary that can give us information which would be of value to the country about raising a lawn hedge, or anything else? Many have promised to write, but few have fulfilled their promise.

It is not too late. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is alive still, and offers its pages to you for any good agricultural purpose; and the editor will make no remarks about you or your writing if you ask him not to do so. When you speak, you may address one, or a thousand, or two; but when you write for this paper you may calculate on speaking to 50,000, as with our 5,000 circulation it is computed that each paper is