

it; but fearing I have tired your patience, (and if I have, I beg pardon for being so prosy,) I hasten to subscribe myself,

Your's most obediently,

G. B. GOODWIN,

Clinton, Township of Goderich, Huron Tract.

P. S.—I hope, Sir, you will excuse me of egotism or presumption, but I can't help telling you that I have another kind of fence in my fancy, which I shall perhaps try this summer, if I live, and if you do not approve of the board and picket, you will of that.

G. B. G.

### COST OF TILES AND DITCHING.

*To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.*

sir,—Would you do me the favour of giving the following few lines a place in your valuable Agricultural journal, in reference to your correspondent's—East Gwillimbury—enquiries respecting Drainage, and Drain 'Tile? We deliver Tile on board the boats or the railway cars, *cartage free*, for parties living at a distance from Toronto, and sending us orders to be supplied by either the boats or cars. The cheapest way to get them by the cars is, for two or three persons to join, if one does not want so many, and order a car load—6000 or 8000, according to size; the charge for freight will be less this way, as they take a long time to load and unload, and there may not be any other freight to be left at that station. The kinds most used for field drainage are 2½-inch pipe and the 3-inch horse-shoe; the 3-inch of both kinds are used for contributing drains. Parties wanting Tile should send in their orders as early as possible, stating the kind, size, and the time when they will be required as the business is new, and we wish to form an idea what the demand may be which we will have to supply. Samples will be sent when required.

The cost of digging for a Tile drain is less than for any other kind, the ditch required for the tile being much narrower than for either wood or stones. By getting proper draining tools—which can be got at Mr. James Fleming's, seeds-man, Yonge Street, Toronto—a ditch four feet deep need be only one foot wide at the top, and just the width of the tile at the bottom. This was the width of 150 rods, 4½ feet deep which I laid down last fall, through a very light, sandy loam. I paid 5s. per day, and the drains cost in labour 1s. 3d. per rod.

Your's respectfully,

WM. LEA.

**HARD OR SOFT WATER IN COOKING.**—Nearly every one knows that *hard* water is such in consequence of its containing a small quantity of carbonate of lime, whereas *soft* water is nearly pure. It may not have occurred to every one that this difference often becomes an important one in the daily process of cooking. Where vegetables are boiled in hard water, a deposit of this lime is made upon the surface of the vegetables, as peas, beans, corn, &c., by which process the food is not only not so thoroughly cooked in a given time, but even when done is not so well done. It is always harder when cooked, and less healthy. The minute deposits of lime upon the surface of such vegetables not only impairs the taste and diminishes the softness of the food, but also acts unfavourably upon the digestion—an effect important to those in health, and doubly so to invalids. The subject might be expanded at some length, but we merely suggest it and leave it for the reader's consideration, whether a pure soft water is not preferable to hard for all the ordinary processes of cooking.