

STATE OF THE CROPS.

The Editor of the N. S. Journal of Agriculture, a short time since, sent circulars to certain persons in the several counties of the Province for information respecting the condition of the crops. The replies are published in the last issue of the Journal.

The following are brief extracts therefrom:

CUMBERLAND.

[From Hon. A. McFarlane]

The Hay crop is far in excess of that of any previous year, fully a third more than in good average seasons. Winter Wheat has done remarkably well, last winter having been favorable for it. Spring Wheat also will give a good yield, the weevil not having touched it. One farmer sowed 60 bushels of Spring wheat this season, and the crop is all that can be desired.

[From T. D. Dickson, Esq.]

Parrsboro'.—The hay crop is probably 50 per cent greater on the uplands than it was last year, and nearly all got in in good condition. On the meadows or low grounds it is said not to be so good as it is generally. Potatoes look well everywhere and promise a large yield; no blight has attacked them here yet that I have heard of. Oats and buckwheat look well. Wheat, wherever sown, is ripening and filling well, and not affected by rust or weevil.

PICTOU.

[From W. H. Harris.]

Pictou.—The Hay crop is all or nearly all housed, a better crop than we have had for many years and put in prime order.

Wheat, Oats, Barley, and Buckwheat all look exceedingly well.

Potatoes and Turnips look uncommonly well and as yet there is no appearance of the much dreaded potato blight.

[From James M. Patten, Esq.]

Lower Barney's River.—All field crops, so far as I can learn, are good. Grain heavy and straw good. All root crops and garden vegetables promise well,—in fact all the crops present a good appearance where there is an effort made for improved cultivation.

COLCHESTER.

[From F. R. Parker, Esq.]

Shubenacadie.—Hay more than a usual crop, being with many one-fifth more than last year, and got into the barns in the best of order and with little expense to what it used to be formerly owing to the usefulness of machinery in many ways. Grain promises very well, there being a much larger quantity sowed than last year—it is generally one foot higher or longer in the stalk than formerly, some fields of wheat will average about five feet high—some show symptoms of mildew, while others have none or very little. All other grain looks as I said, very well. All roots look well, but the blight has just commenced with the potatoes, to do its old work. Turnips and carrots promise very well. Indian corn which has been planted by many (and which of late years has not been raised) looks magnificent, some being to the height of eight feet. Many of our farmers have commenced under-draining by putting pipes in, which can be got at the brickyards, and they at once show the advantage to crops, which in a few years must pay, besides the advantage of working the land much sooner after a rain.

KINGS COUNTY.

[From Dr. Hamilton.]

Cornwallis.—The wet spring and continued rains during the months of May and June have produced more than an average crop of hay of excellent quality; and I scarcely ever knew a finer season for securing it than the present one. There was no very hot weather; scarcely any wind, and only a few showers of rain, which were of short duration. I do not think the hay crop was ever secured in as good order. I am sure it was never of better quality, there being a fair proportion of timothy and clover.

Mr. Levi Eaton, of Canard, took from ten acres of dyked marsh on the Wellington dyke, forty-one tons of hay by weight; the hay being weighed when it went into the barn, well made and cured.

Of winter wheat I sowed about 100 rods of ground and harvested forty-four stocks of wheat, of as fine a growth of straw and as well filled and as perfectly free from the ravages of the weevil as I ever saw. Several persons have applied for wheat for seed, and I am in hopes that it will be more generally cultivated in Nova Scotia.

Summer wheat as far as I can learn is filling pretty well, and but little injured by the weevil. I had a small quantity which was sown in April, and it escaped the fly and is very fine.

Oats much more than an average crop.

Potatoes, as usual, are planted very extensively, and are looking remarkably well—a rather dry season being more favorable for their growth and perfection than a wet one. The early kinds are exceedingly fine in quality and really taste like the potatoes of by-gone years before the disease affected them. I hear of no complaint about the disease, and should the weather continue as at present, rather dry, there will be no danger of it affecting them this season.

HANTS COUNTY.

[From W. H. Blanchard, Esq.]

Windsor.—The hay crop is considerably better than an average, as regards quality as well as quantity. The root crops generally are looking well. I have seen some appearance of the blight in the tops of the potatoes, but I have not heard any complaints of the blight being affected yet.

LUNenburg COUNTY.

[From B. Zwickler, Esq.]

Mahone Bay.—The reasonable rains this year,

kept the grass green all through haying and therefore the last made hay, was as good as the first, and we never had a larger crop or better quality than this year of upland hay but the marshes failed this year. The grain of every kind, I think, never was better. The yield of barley never was better, the stalk is very tall, very large heads and full kernel. The potato crop, I think will be more than double what it was last year—the rot is not general; the early ones have all been dug, and a very good yield; the late ones are somewhat green yet and the cool dry weather will, I think, be the means of saving them in a great measure. The apple crop, I think will be very good, and also plums; we must therefore pronounce this a most beautiful season. We have great reason to be thankful to the Giver of all good for it, and thank him for casting our lot in one of the healthiest and best countries in the world, and ruled by one of the noblest Sovereigns that ever swayed a sceptre.

SHELBURNE.

[From R. H. Crwell, Esq.]

Barrington.—Potatoes, to all appearances will be a fair yield, quality good, some indications of rot. Garden vegetables are looking well, and to all appearances will be a fair crop. Peas very good. Oats are fair, and in some cases barley looks well.

CAPE BRETON.

[From H. Davenport, Esq.]

Ashby, Sydney.—The season set in both cold and wet, farm work was in consequence delayed fully a fortnight later than usual.

Hay has been gathered in very fine weather and turned out very heavy, although in some poor districts deficient, it has been on the whole the heaviest for some years—there is also some surplus from last year on hand.

Potatoes have suffered some little from long drouth, and at one time there was an apprehension of blight, which is very slight and not spreading.

Oats, from drouth, will be somewhat deficient in straw.

Wheat is sparingly sown, but some small patches look very well, the same may be said of barley.

Turnips are almost universally bad, the fly and drouth united have done for turnips.

ANNAPOIS.

[From O. M. Taylor, Esq.]

Middleton.—The hay crop here has not been as large as it is some years, but of better quality. The grain promises a good yield. All kinds of root crops never did fairer to give a heavy crop. Fruit will only be an average yield this season. It is believed that the frost killed the blight, but although less in quantity, the quality will be good.

[From W. E. Starratt, Esq.]

Paradise.—The probability is, that we shall have a large surplus of all productions of agriculture over last year. Indian corn suffered by frost in the early part of summer.

Wheat, both spring and winter, good. Barley, good. Rye, good. Oats, very fine. Buckwheat, good. Potatoes promise a fine crop. Hay, a reasonable quantity and housed in fine condition. Pumpkins, light. Apples, an average crop, but quality good.

INVERNESS.

[From Geo. C. Lawrence, Esq.]

Port Hood.—The hay crop which is now nearly all secured, is good, more than an average, and secured in good order. Wheat has not been sown to a large extent for some years back, but what was sown, promises at present a good yield. Oats and Barley look well, but owing to the backward spring, are late. Potatoes are generally throughout the country looking well—no appearance of blight in this neighbourhood.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

MISSIONS AND FASHIONS.—IDOLATRY ABROAD AND AT HOME.

When we meet together in our monthly Concerts, we feel, or think we feel, an interest in the welfare of the heathen world, and have at least some desire for their salvation, and if we happen to have present with us an officer of the society, whose business it is to receive and give information concerning the good work in foreign lands, our interest is double, and we feel that we are not doing half as much as we ought, and might do for the spread of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and how often we wish we could hear from the lips of those who have climbed the mountains and trod the valleys of Burmah tales of that far-off land.

My own wishes in this respect, have been much gratified in repeatedly hearing the Rev. Mr. Bixby, who has laboured for years in Burmah and is now working hard in this country, hoping to regain his health, and stir up the people to a sense of duty, and greater activity in this great and glorious work. I have heard him tell of his joys and his sorrows, his toils and sufferings, his many narrow escapes, when there appeared "but a step between him and death," and how, when surrounded by those who had sworn to take his life, God "suffered no one to set on him to hurt him," showing clearly that the same God who preserved

"Daniel in the lion's den," without whose notice, not even a "sparrow falls to the ground," and by whom "even the hairs of our head are all numbered," had taken care of him when in the midst of savage and cruel men. This is enough to warm the coldest heart, and to give the most unconcerned an interest in this noble work.

But there was another story that he told, which (however others might feel) made me blush for shame. It was this,—that during the last twelve years, the members of the Baptist churches in this country, had not, upon an average, paid into the Foreign Missionary fund, the price of two cigars, or a yard of ribbon, per annum. That although many were found, who paid very liberally, and some who paid very largely, even \$1000.00 per year; yet so great was the number, (even among our Baptist churches) who took no interest in the work, and consequently, paid nothing towards its support, that the whole amount given by our churches, actually fell short of the "price of two cigars or a yard of ribbon" for each member. In thinking of these facts, I was led into a train of reflections, and arrived at the full conviction that we here in a land of gospel light, bow down to our own idols, about as much as the heathen do to theirs. Our greatest idol is the goddess, "Fashion." At her shrine we worship, and to her we sacrifice an immense amount of the time and substance that God has given us for greater, and more ennobling purposes.

A little reflection, gentle reader, and you will conclude with me, that we in this christian country, sacrifice quite as much to "Fashion," as would maintain "Dianna of the Ephesians" in all her gorgeous splendour. Just think for one moment, of the immense sums of money, and the great amount of time, uselessly squandered in the support of many useless things. I have no hesitation in saying, that a tithe of the amount thus spent, would more than support all the foreign missionaries in the world. Who does not know, that if a new garment is to be made or purchased, that the questions, What will be most comfortable? or, What will be the most convenient? or, What will be the most conducive to health? are scarcely thought of; but, "What is the most fashionable?" To the dictates of "fashion," whatever they may be, every nobler consideration must bow. I remember some time ago, making some purchases of a friend, when he showed me some of his old style goods; on examining the articles, I said to him, that I thought his old style goods more convenient, and quite as comfortable, as the new style. He replied, "that it was certainly so," "but," (continued he) "you know, that if it was the fashion to wear the boot on top of the head with its bottom upwards, it would have to be done."

We certainly see every day, habits indulged in, that are equally ridiculous, inconvenient, and uncomfortable. How many of our blooming youth, in obeying her mandates, have brought upon themselves Asthma, Dyspepsia and Consumption, with all their numerous train of evils, and finally been laid in a premature grave, the sole victims of Fashion.

Let us think for a few moments, not only of the tens, or of the thousands, but of the hundreds of thousands of dollars, not only uselessly, but injuriously squandered year by year, for pipes, cigars, and tobacco in its other various forms, and how men debase themselves in the use of this filthy weed, not so filthy in its natural, as in its manufactured state, for certainly, as it is manufactured for the use of man, it is the most detestable of all drugs: Who does not know, that even, the lowest animals that surround us, will not, (voluntarily) taste of it; and to mingle their food as strongly with its juices, as those juices are emitted from the mouths of our fellow beings, either the swine or the donkey, would starve, rather than eat it, and yet I have no hesitation in saying, as I did of the other fashions, that a very small proportion of the money and time spent, in this debasing habit, constitution-destroying practice, would more than support all the foreign Missionaries in the world. Why do men indulge in such habits? Not because they naturally love this (for many will tell you, they had hard work to learn,) but because it is the fashion. Boys see men, and girls see women indulging in these habits, and they foolishly think, that to chew a quid, or puff a cigar, are important steps towards man or womanhood, at any rate, "it is the fashion."

Now if these fashions, were followed only by the people of the world, who profess no faith in Christ, or interest in his kingdom, I would hold my peace; but it is not so. The church has most lamentably become a fashionable body. I have known Baptists who were indeed very poor, and who I doubt not were really christian peo-

ple, who thought fifty cents, or a dollar a year, a large sum for them to pay for religious purposes, yet who, nevertheless, would, without complaining, spend from three to five dollars a year for pipes and tobacco; while many there are, who think a dollar a week, only a small allowance for similar indulgences; and I have known many others too who would seem quite offended if called upon for anything for Religious or Benevolent purposes, who could dress in the "latest fashions," while thousands upon thousands who have ample means, will not give a tithe of as much for the support of the gospel, and all other benevolent institutions as they most willingly sacrifice at the shrine of fashion. O that the church would cease to be so conformed to the fashions of this world, which vanish, and pass away; that she would put on her more "beautiful garments," and walk more in accordance with the precepts and example of her great Lord and master, "Then will she shine forth, clear as the sun, fair as the moon, and terrible as an army with banners."

T. A.

For the Christian Messenger.

IN MEMORIAM.

MRS. MARY A. CHESLEY.

Widow of the late Samuel M. Chesley of Granville, and daughter of the late Thomas Dupuy, of Lower Granville, died on the 25th of February. She professed faith in Christ, was baptised by the Rev. N. Vidito, and united with the Baptist Church some years ago. In the early part of her last illness her mind was somewhat beclouded, and her spirit at times depressed. But calm patience rested upon her soul which betokened a heart reconciled to God. As weeping ones stood beside her cherished form with hearts overwhelmed with grief, she would endeavour to calm and soothe those who, in the anxious days and nights of watching beside that couch of pain clung to every faint hope of her recovery, yet we knew that our loss would be her gain. We found it hard to reconcile our minds to the will of God; yet we had those precious promises "Call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee." As she drew nearer her end, her visions grew brighter, she talked calmly and hopefully of her departure from this life, admonished those around her to seek to live near to God. That deep concern for her children which prevailed her soul in life, still clung to her in the hour of death, that those of her dear children who were not professors of religion, might become christians. Oh may those dying admonitions long be remembered. Her pastor visited her frequently during her illness and other christian friends talked and prayed with her. Those visits she truly enjoyed and each one felt that hers would be a happy exchange. Very often through the day she would request us to read God's word to her and in the silent watches of the night we have been called upon to read, sing and pray, with her. Patiently and submissively she bore her sufferings. On the morning of the 25th of February, as weeping children and friends stood round her dying bed we listened, and although her speech was almost gone, we heard her say

"When I can read my title clear
To mansions in the skies
I'll bid farewell to every fear
And wipe my weeping eyes."

A friend standing near said, "Can you read you title clear Mrs. Chesley?" The answer came though feeble in voice yet strong in faith "Yes." With the words, "Come Lord Jesus come quickly!" upon her lips her happy spirit took its flight to the mansions prepared for the blest, at the age of 63 years, leaving seven children and sixteen grand children to mourn their loss. The funeral occasion was improved by her pastor from the words found in I Corinthians xv. 55—57. O death where is thy sting! O grave where thy victory!—Communicated by Miss Mary L. Chesley.

MRS. CYNTHIA ROSS.

Died at Hillsburg, May 7th, 1869, in the 43rd year of her age. Sister Ross made a profession of religion in her youth, and joined the first Hillsburg Church during the pastorate of Rev. Henry Saunders. She was a faithful friend, and an earnest, yet modest christian. Her attachment to God's house and cause continued unabated to the end.

She was not of those who run well for a little time, but her desire was to "dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of her life."

The last few months of her life were spent in pain often of the severest kind, yet she bore it all with christian resignation, patience and fortitude. Her closing hours were cheered with the Saviour's presence, and her prospects beyond the grave were often delightful. She leaves an affectionate husband, and a very large number of friends to mourn for her, yet not without a good hope of a happy re-union in heaven.—Com. by Rev. A. Martell.

God's threatenings to man are always based upon the fact (understood though not always expressed) that if the individual against whom they are uttered repents, they will not be executed against him.

This view is fully substantiated in the case of Jonah's proclamation concerning the destruction of Ninevah after sixty days.

God is very merciful, is therefore the encouragement to repent and believe in Him. Bridgewater, Aug. 1868.