

but a sufficient portion of those grounds that are already cleared of timber, comprising some 70 or 80 acres are to be devoted to the purposes of experimental and practical farming. The land is to be given up for a term of years free of charge to the Professor, subject to the control of the Board of Agriculture;—an important, and what it is hoped will prove, a most useful instrumentality, that is about being organised under the provisions of an act of the Legislature, passed last session. We learn upon good authority that the Government will recommend to Parliament a sufficient grant of money for carrying out the important objects of the Board, and for sustaining with increased vigor the Provincial Association. The country should distinctly understand that this is no mere political movement for party purposes; its object is purely patriotic, and it should enlist the sympathies and support of all who sincerely desire their country's welfare. We live in an age and are now placed in circumstances, which imperatively demand, that the improvement of agriculture, the main source of our wealth, should receive the earnest attention and support of the Legislature, irrespective of what party may control the helm. Many other countries, our near and enterprising neighbors in particular are prosecuting this object with an earnestness and intelligence that cannot fail of success; and amidst the increasing competition of the civilized world with the markets of the mother country equally thrown open to all, it will not do for Canadians to fold their arms in listlessness, and to stand still, while the rest of the world is rapidly moving onwards. Not a moment ought to be lost. We must be up and doing; bringing willingly to our aid whatever science or experience can suggest for increasing the fertility of our fields, and for developing those great natural sources of wealth and enjoyment, which a bountiful Providence has placed within our reach.

The recognition of the claims of agriculture by the University, cannot fail to render that important Institution more popular and useful, in a country where four-fifths of its inhabitants are engaged in the cultivation of the soil. The social *status* of our farmers will become elevated, by associating the Science and practice of their pursuits, with a liberal course of academical learning; while existing systems of farm practice, will be necessarily improved, by imparting to the young, sound, practical knowledge, and the results of carefully conducted experiments. We will now proceed to give our views of this matter a little more in detail.

In the first place, whatever is attempted should

bear upon the face of it, the stamp of *practical utility*. The lectures of the Professor on the theory and practice of his art, ought to be fully illustrated, not only by diagrams, specimens and models, but especially by frequent reference to the daily operations of the farm. The merely pointing out the application of some of the laws and doctrines of chemistry, geology, animal and vegetable physiology, &c., to the pursuits of the farmer, however interesting and suggestive as many of these undoubtedly are, would be quite a different thing from the practical teaching of agriculture as an *art*. The principle on which a Professorship of agriculture should be founded in the present day, according to our notion, is that of *Practice with Science*.

This leads us to remark upon the advantages of an experimental farm, which without the most careful and elaborate teaching in the class room would lose the greater portion of its practical value. By an experimental farm, however, we do not mean what is commonly understood, a *model* farm; two things that are very distinct but frequently confounded. The first is chiefly designed for testing the adaptation of new kinds of agricultural productions to certain conditions of soil and climate; a number of experiments are being conducted at the same time, and every thing of moment relating to them is carefully observed and recorded. Such investigations are in themselves extremely interesting, and open up broad views of the nature and relations of agriculture, both as a science and an art; and should only one experiment in a hundred, or even a thousand be successful, that is, be the means of introducing into general culture, some fresh production or improved variety, suitable to our soil and climate and the demands of the market, the benefit to the country might become positively immense. Besides, in experimenting there is frequently as much to be learnt from failure as success; fresh light is often thrown upon matters, which were before obscure; anomalies become reconciled, and the path of investigation, leading to future discoveries, is rendered more direct and easy.

How different is it with a *model* farm, or in other words, a farm consisting of a specific soil, in a certain relative situation as to climate, markets, the price of labor &c., and managed, in all its departments, solely with a view to the maximum of money profit. Such a farm might well be considered a model, that might be safely followed by all farmers, who happened to be placed under *similar conditions*. But it must be plain at once, to the most ordinary reflection, that in an extensive country like Canada, possess-