

the trouble to read my communication may think I have made matters appear in a more unfavorable light than they are in reality, and I wish sincerely that I may have done so, and there will be less necessity for improvement. I have had frequent opportunities of knowing the country, and the stock and crops of the farmers, and could not help imagining how much room there was for improvement, and what a great advantage it would be to make the required improvements. Throughout the Valley of the St. Lawrence, and in many other sections of the country, the general quality of the land, and its adaptation to agriculture cannot be surpassed in any part of North America, and there cannot be any doubt whatever that a large proportion of this land is not managed to the best advantage, and does not produce anything near what it is capable of producing. We are most anxious for the extension of commerce and trade, and I advocate the improvement of agriculture as the only certain means to promote and support commerce and trade, by the increased annual produce it would create. Traffic in foreign productions will never augment to any great extent the general wealth of a country, and we may assure ourselves that the wealth of Canada will chiefly depend upon her own productions, obtained from her land. It is these productions which directly and indirectly provide the means for paying almost all the claims against the country, whether for revenue, or imported goods. From any other source except the land, we need not expect much assistance in this country under existing circumstances. If this proposition be admitted, and I think it cannot be disputed, how much does it behoove every lover of his country to lend his aid, and every influence he can exercise, in promoting improvements in which all are interested. I wish it was in my power to induce others to view this subject in the same light I do. If it was a political subject, or any other on which I might be mistaken, I would not presume to have kept it constantly before the public, as I have done, for the last quarter of a century. It may be replied to me, that if my views, or suggestion I presume to offer, were considered of that importance which I attach to them, they would be immediately acted upon by those who have the power to do all that is necessary for agricultural improvement.

We have many able men in Canada, who could do wonders for agriculture, if they would only be persuaded that they could not devote their talents or eloquence to any subject of so much importance to the whole Canadian community. Perhaps it may not be thought offensive, if I express my regret that when reading the debates in our Provincial Parliament, and admiring the eloquence of many of the speeches reported, I scarcely ever meet with one sentence that has any reference to agriculture, or its state, and requirements. As the humble advocate for agriculture, it would be a most gratify-

ing "sign of the times" if I could only see a small portion of the eloquence expended on other subjects given to the cause of agriculture, and to recommend its improvement to the rural population. If this population was only to learn, that their representatives in Parliament occupied themselves with the consideration of the interests of agriculture, and made eloquent speeches upon its vast importance, and the advantages to be derived from its improvement to the uttermost, we should soon see a change for the better, and the occupation of the farmer regarded with more favour. Our Legislature may certainly have numerous interests to occupy their attention to, but I humbly conceive that there is not one of these interests, that is to be compared in importance with that of agriculture, which is the occupation of the great majority of those who have elected the members of the Legislative Assembly—and as their representatives, agriculture is entitled to every possible attention to its interests so far as they can be promoted, without injustice to any other interests.

I cannot better or more appropriately conclude this communication, than by copying a few lines from a late number of that excellent newspaper—*The Mark Lane Express*. Farmers I know are generally disposed to feel profound gratitude to the CREATOR for His never failing goodness, in the annual increase of their field, their flocks, and their herds—which has continued from the creation of man, to the present time—and they may with perfect confidence rely upon a continuance of the same goodness.—“We should feel that we had very inadequately noticed this period of the year if we neglected to remind our readers, of the agricultural class, of the source from which they derive their prosperity, and the power on whom it depends. The farmer above all other men, must feel how helpless he is after all his efforts to secure his own welfare, or insure the safety of his crops. A blast of wind, a tempest, vegetable pestilence, may in one short day lay his hopes prostrate, and defeat his best arranged plans. On the other hand, gratitude for the past and hope for the future, ought to fill every heart, and constitute a motive for increased efforts, and enterprise. Whilst with humility we should recognize the hand of a superintending Providence, we should consider who it is that has given us faculties and powers for use, and not for inaction or abuse. That we should both “plough and sow in hope” as if all depended upon ourselves, leaving the event to Him who hath assured us that “while the earth remaineth, seed time and harvest, day and night, summer and winter, shall not cease.”

What more can I say, or rather ought I to say. I may have been too bold, if on such a subject, I could be too bold. However, if I have said anything offensive I hope I may be pardoned, because my only motive is the good of my country. WM. EVANS.

Cote St. Paul, May, 1856.

## Toronto Horticultural and Agricultural Club.

### KITCHEN GARDEN.

The second regular meeting for discussion of this Club was held on Tuesday, 18th March. There was a moderate attendance of gentlemen present; the President, Mr. Allan, and several other leading members being unfortunately absent from unavoidable causes. Mr. James Fleming, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair. The subject for discussion, “The importance of Kitchen Gardens as an appendage to Farm Houses” was introduced by Mr. Mundie, Landscape Gardener, of this city, whose interesting papers we regret we cannot insert in full. Our space will enable us to give the *practical* directions, only. The introductory remarks on the value and importance of the garden and its products, as well as the concluding arguments by which Mr. M. enforced his theme, were exceedingly well put. Those who may wish to see the entire paper will find it in the *Colonist* of the 22nd March.

A kitchen garden of the present day, may be defined as a piece of land fenced in and set apart for the growth of vegetables, roots, herbs, and small fruits for cooking or kitchen purposes as the name of the garden implies. The term small fruits, comprehends the various sorts of gooseberries, currants, raspberries, strawberries, cranberries, &c.

In choosing a piece of land to lay out a kitchen garden, the situation should not be very flat nor very elevated. In very low situations, the moisture of the atmosphere renders the crops of all sorts more liable to be injured by frost, and on very high land the cutting winds of spring and early summer are also injurious; the blossom and young fruit are often damaged, as also the leaves of tender vegetables and plants of all descriptions, when in a young and growing state.

A piece of moderately light land, sloping very gently towards the South or South-East, avoiding the extremes of situation mentioned above, will under good management give every satisfaction. A point to the East will give increased earliness.

The farmers', or country kitchen garden, (and of which I am more particularly speaking) should be near the dwelling house, and should occupy a position if otherwise applicable, partly between the dwelling and barn or stock yard. If so situated; it will be convenient to manure, convenient for gathering vegetables at all times, and also convenient to cultivate, allowing every half hour to be employed to the best advantage.

The size of the garden should be regulated according to the wants of the family; for a family of six persons, half an acre will not be too much, and for any larger number the ground may be increased in proportion; always bearing in mind, that a small garden requiring to be crowded, is more difficult to keep than a larger space where there is room for proper regulation and rotation.