

haps the visitation of the wheat fly, may ultimately prove advantageous, by causing a more improved and careful system of husbandry, the raising of green crops, sowing clover, and keeping more live stock, all so essential to good husbandry. When the wheat crop was the chief object, it necessarily produced a defective system of agriculture, there were no green crops, and scarcely any clover or timothy sown, but one half the farm was under wheat, and the other half, growing weeds and natural grass, pastured by a few cattle and sheep, and in the fall ploughed up again for wheat.

This system, we rejoice to say, is changing fast for a better, and the change will every day become more extended. There are in every section of the country, Canadian farmers introducing an improved system of husbandry that cannot fail to operate favorably on the general improvement of agriculture. The friends of agriculture will rejoice to hear this statement, which they may be assured is a fact, and we have not any doubt, that in a short time the cultivated lands of Lower Canada will yield as large an average produce annually, as the same extent of land in any portion of North America. There may be other countries favored with a more sunny climate, and less frost and snow, but Lower Canada, under a good system of husbandry, can compete successfully with any of them in the gross amount of her agricultural products. Our soil is of excellent quality, our climate good, and whatever may be the opinion of some to the contrary, our rural population is as industrious and frugal as any we have seen on this continent. What we require is, a more general and useful education, embracing instruction in the science and practice of agriculture, and there is now a prospect that we shall soon possess all these advantages, and when we do, the country will soon prove that it is entitled to the highest commendation it has ever received from our humble pen, or from any other, as a country possessing richly all the qualities required for successful agriculture.

It may be urged that, notwithstanding the vastly augmented general agricultural pro-

ducts of Canada, within the last thirty years, farmers have not generally become wealthy in proportion, and are now very deficient in ready money capital. We admit this to be the fact, and to have resulted from causes that can be explained. The disproportion between the value of labor and the price of produce raised by it, is one cause that has prevented the accumulation of capital in the hands of farmers; as also the disproportion between the price of what they have to sell, and what they require to purchase, according to their actual first cost value. This disproportion extends to almost every case where farmers are the payers or receivers of money. To these disadvantages may be added the deficiency of the wheat crops for several years. With all these drawbacks, however, the improvement of the country and the greatly increased amount of her annual agricultural productions is unquestionable. It is quite possible that the country should improve, and her products be greatly augmented, without proportionally increasing the money capital of her agricultural population, and that is the case in Lower Canada. There must be something out of joint to produce these results, and it is only by education, and instruction in the practiced art of agriculture, that these evils can be remedied. It is necessary to the general prosperity of agriculture that agriculturists, as a class, should be educated, or they never can compete on equal terms for the accumulation of capital with other classes that are educated. Educated men, though they may choose to work in the field, will estimate the value of their labour as highly as those who may be employed in other professions and trades, and will not be content unless they are paid in the same proportion. When agriculturists are educated as other classes they will be on an equal footing, but not before, and they will have to submit to many disadvantages until they are in this position.

March 28th, 1852.