

In a work lately published in England on the "General Drainage and Distribution of Water," the author says:—"It is admitted by all who understand the subject, that where drainage has been carried on upon correct principles, and with proper skill and energy, 8 bushels or one quarter of wheat has been added to the produce per acre." The author further states, that 10,000,000 out of 12,000,000 acres of the arable land of England is undrained or ineffectually drained at present; and he supposes that if this land was perfectly drained, more than 3,000,000 quarters of wheat would be annually added to the produce of that grain alone in England. He endeavours to prove also, that the drainage water might be usefully employed in irrigation, and in giving mill power. The sewerage of the towns of England and Wales, he calculates would annually produce over 3,000,000 tons of disposable manure more than they do at present, capable of enriching an area of 1,000,000 acres. The work referred to, is highly recommended to the attention of land proprietors in the British Isles.

We have repeatedly endeavoured to prove that the more perfect drainage of the arable lands of Canada, would be the most necessary and profitable improvement that could be effected in our agriculture. Every farmer who understands his business must know that it is unprofitable and worse, to cultivate and manure land that is not sufficiently drained. Before any field is cultivated by a farmer, it will be decidedly his interest to drain it sufficiently. Every shilling expended in draining, so far as it is necessary, will produce more profit than five shillings would do in cultivating and manuring undrained or insufficiently drained land. We recommend to the attention of our Legislature, the Acts that have been lately passed in the British Parliament, for the more perfect drainage of land in the British Isles; and we earnestly hope that the interests of our agriculture will receive some consideration in the next Session of the Provincial Parliament. Our Legislature will have a GOOD PRECEDENT in England, what measures should be introduced here for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture. They need not apprehend that this precedent would be unsuitable for this country. We have frequently endeavoured to prove, that the more closely we adopt and follow the English improved system of agriculture in every branch, (with the exception of cultivating turnips to the same extent), the more certain we will be of profitable agriculture. We now, regardless of what any person may have to state to the contrary, assert the same thing. The drilling and hoeing of wheat, we would particularly recommend. Dibbling of wheat is practised in England, but not to a great extent, and we need not adopt that part of their system here for the present, as labour is dearer, and seed cheaper with us than in that country. We are prepared to enter into a full explanation on this subject, with any one who may chuse to take the matter up. Winter vetches are a crop that can not of course be cultivated here, nor are they necessary for us. Hoeing wheat may be done here nearly as cheap as in England, when we have labourers that will understand the work and be expert at it. One hoeing would be sufficient, and it would greatly tend to destroy the wheat fly, we have not the smallest doubt. Drilling

and hoeing would give air to the crop and keep down weeds. If our land was very suitable for wheat, and situated at a distance from town, where wheat should be the most profitable crop to cultivate, we would certainly endeavour to prove, by experiment, the plan we recommend. Let those who have suitable soil, summer-fallow the land—lime it—sow the wheat in the beginning of September, in drills—hoe it once in the spring—and if a good crop is not produced, (provided it comes into ear previous to the 20th of June, so as to escape the fly), we shall acknowledge our error. We have every reason to believe, that by sowing wheat early on well prepared fertile soil, limed if possible, it would be in ear early in June, and be perfectly safe from the fly. Has any farmer tried this experiment fully on wheat, up to this moment in Eastern Canada?—We believe there has not. In making experiments, every part of our plan must be followed exactly, or we will not answer for its success.—We do not propose any thing more than the system of cultivation that is now very generally adopted in England for the production of wheat. How can we expect good crops from the slovenly cultivation that is general in Canada? Our strong clay lands are not cleaned by summer-fallowing, the crops are not hoed or weeded properly, the land is not sufficiently drained, and how can we reasonably expect good crops? We appeal to any one who is acquainted with the country, if our statement respecting the general cultivation of crops is not correct. There is much of the soils of this country that contain salts, or ingredients, that are said to produce rust in the crop of wheat, and from our own experience we know this to be case. Lime is said to be an effectual remedy against the injurious influence of these salts. The drilling and hoeing out of all weeds, would also help to prevent rust and mildew, and those diseases when they affect the crop, are as destructive to them as the fly.

In *The Mark Lane Express* of the 4th of July, we have seen a most interesting "Summary of the Public Proceedings" of the Royal English Agricultural Society, that was to have taken place at the Bristol meeting, on the 12th and three following days of July. Every man attached to the profession of agriculture must feel interested in the proceedings of a Society who are doing so much to promote the improvement and prosperity of agriculture. It is, however, to Canadian farmers, distressing to know, that notwithstanding the great necessity that exists for introducing improvement in agriculture here, they have no such Society as that of England to encourage improvement, or take care of their interests. Agriculture is left to take care of itself in Canada. The few Agricultural Societies we have, direct their principal attention to giving premiums on superior horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, and neglect altogether the improvement of the system of husbandry, that is of infinitely more importance than the improvement of live stock in a few hands. Better draining, ploughing, judicious rotation of crops, the destruction of weeds, and of vermin injurious to agriculture, is what we should direct our attention to first.

If rhubarb seed is not wanted, it is a mere waste of the powers of the plant to allow it to

flower. For the same reason asparagus should not be permitted to bear berries, nor sea-kale flowers and seeds.

A Society has been organized in Ireland for promoting the "Improvement of the growth of Flax," and several deputies have been sent by the Society to Belgium in order to acquire a practical knowledge of the cultivation and management of that important crop in that country.—These deputies have returned and have gone to their respective districts the last spring, to give to Flax-growers, the benefit of the information they have acquired. When shall a Society be organized in Canada for a similar object? We answer, not certainly until agriculturists possess more influence than they do at present in the country.

The late Lord Sydenham, when transmitting to Lord John Russell, the joint addresses of both Houses of the Canadian Legislature on the subject of the Timber Duties, made use of the following terms in his dispatch:—"In transmitting these addresses, I am bound to remark that, notwithstanding the authority from which they proceed, I am not disposed to attach very great importance to them." Such was the opinion entertained by the late Governor-General of the joint addresses of our Legislature on a subject of great importance to Canada. It could scarcely be expected that the Colonial Secretary would attach much consequence to addresses transmitted to him with so doubtful a recommendation, and it was certainly a very poor compliment to the wisdom of our Legislators. The dispatch of the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick, when transmitting addresses from the Legislature of that Province upon the same subject, is in strong contrast with that from Lord Sydenham. His Excellency Sir W. M. G. Colebrooke, recommends to Lord Stanley, the present Colonial Secretary, the prayer of the addresses in the strongest terms he could employ. It must always be cause of deep regret, when the Governor-General of Canada, under our present Constitution, in transmitting to the Home Government, the joint and unanimous addresses of both Houses of our Legislature, on a subject that may be of vital importance to the country, should conceive it to be his duty to speak of it in such terms as those which Lord Sydenham employed on the occasion referred to. Such a course must decidedly show a doubt in the wisdom of the Legislature—that they are not always influenced in their motives and measures to promote the general good of the country they legislate for—and that they are not competent to form a correct opinion of measures that would be the best calculated to advance the general welfare.

We have seen fields in Eastern Canada so completely occupied with a crop of thistles, that any stranger would have supposed that they were a crop that had been regularly sown and cultivated. Will any one pretend to say that it would not be expedient for the Legislature to pass a law that would inflict a penalty upon any farmer or occupier of land who would not cut down their thistles, or other weeds that scatter their seeds, before they mature their seeds? We think it actually necessary to introduce such a law, that it would be an expedient and reasonable law, and a law that no well disposed occupier of land would complain of.