

tendency of such experiments very injurious to farmers who have not sufficient skill and experience to detect their utter fallacy. We deny that there is any "short cut" in farming well or profitably. The best experiment a farmer can ever make, is to drain well, plough well and deeply, manure sufficiently, plant, row, weed perfectly, and harvest in proper time. Farmers may rest assured, that by this sort of cultivation and management, they will grow better crops than could be produced on the finest plate glass, or the most expensive china that ever was manufactured. We are decidedly in favour of any new and reasonable improvement in Agriculture, but we shall never copy any experiment that cannot be practically or profitably introduced. We can find abundance of useful matter to copy without occupying our pages with what is impracticable.

#### THE LATE NEWS.

The news from England, by the last packet, is not of a very encouraging nature to the future prospects of Canadian Agriculture. As we have constantly said,—if all restrictions and every species of protection be completely done away, farmers cannot expect to have more favour than any other interest or class. We fear, however, that equal justice will not be done to Agriculture, as to other interests; notwithstanding that it is the produce of Agriculture which will have to furnish means to pay the principle portion of British taxation, and support her trade and manufactures. We cannot at present understand how free trade can be established by Britain, unless other nations are content to act upon the same principle. How is it to be as regards British shipping? Are they to continue to have a monopoly of the British trade and commerce? This, however necessary, cannot be consistent with the free trade principle. If farmers are to have all the producers on earth as competitors; they certainly have a right to be able to transport their produce at the cheapest rate to market, wherever that market may be. If there is not a free trade in shipping, it will act as an indirect tax upon every article bought or sold. We have seen freight from Canada to England vary so exceedingly, as to cost three times the amount one ear that it would another. A very high rate of freight must have a most injurious influence upon the price of Canadian produce; which would never be the case, if ships were to be as free of protection

as Agricultural produce is to be. If the freight of a bushel of wheat costs a shilling, or more, instead of sixpence, or less; it would at once lessen the price of the produce of an acre of wheat to the farmer from ten to twenty shillings, according to the quantity of produce to the acre. This is a very considerable amount to be deducted from the produce of an acre, and acts as a bar to the exportation of inferior grain altogether. We have seen a barrel of flour charged from Montreal only 2s. 6d. freight to England, and we have seen the charge as high as from 6s. to 7s. 6d. per barrel. This great variation is exceedingly injurious, and the high freight much over a reasonable remuneration. It appears, in theory, a very happy state of things, if the produce of the earth, and of man's industry, was to circulate freely over the world; the experiment, however, has never yet been made, and we very much doubt if it can be practically put in general operation. If experience prove that it can, no man will rejoice at it more than we shall. We shall proceed a little further, and show that this overcharge for freight is an actual charge or tax upon a farmer having twenty acres of wheat, of from ten to twenty pounds currency, according to the quantity of the crop. Who are the parties who derive benefit from this? Certainly the country who owns the shipping; because all that wheat brings over what the farmer actually receives in the Canada market is expended in another country, and brings profit to every one concerned, until it goes to the consumer. These circumstances are not sufficiently considered by those most interested, and ship-owners levy a tax upon Canadian products for their own benefit, instead of a tax or revenue to the Government, because the laws protect them from foreign competition. Hence, it never can fail to be a species of indirect taxation in every case, where protection is afforded partially and not generally. Free trade must be general, or the greatest injustice will be done to our class for the benefit of other classes. And we have not the slightest doubt, that, after all this matter of the corn laws are finally disposed of, there will remain a degree of protection to manufactures and shipping, that will give them advantages over the Agricultural classes, and interests, that will be anything but fair. The particular circumstances of Britain, with a large amount to be provided annually for the expenses of the country, will oblige the ministry to retain indirect taxes, and they