

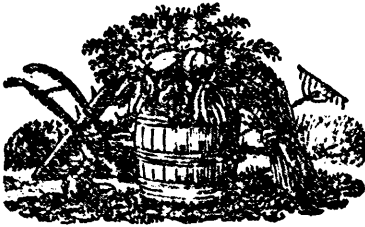
THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

No. 1.

HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY, 1842.

NO. 7.



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HORTON, 15th DECEMBER, 1841.

I am instructed, by a Resolution of King's County Agricultural Society, of the 6th inst., to forward the enclosed Speech to you, for publication in the *Colonial Farmer*. Should you deem worthy a place in the columns of that paper, you will confer a favor on the Society by inserting it.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES HARRIS,

Secretary K. C. Ag. Society.

The Ed. Colonial Farmer.

At a General Meeting of the King's County Agricultural Society, held at Wolfville, on Monday, the 6th day of December, 1841, Judge Marshall, one of the Members of the Society, delivered the following Address, pursuant to a Resolution passed at the previous meeting:

PRESIDENT, AND GENTLEMEN—

In compliance with the request to address this Society, on the present occasion, I feel my own inability to treat of the subject on which we are engaged, in its more scientific principles, or to impart any extensive information respecting its direct and practical applications. Not only, however, are a correct knowledge and skill in the direction of those operations of essential importance in the science of agriculture, but there are numerous subjects and influences more or less affecting it, which it is highly requisite to understand; and on many of which, although of scarcely less importance and practical skill, the husbandman is not sufficiently informed, and therefore does not regard as of serious interest. A knowledge of these, and their due appreciation, are especially important in such a Country as our own, where nearly every trade and employment, as well as civil regulation, have either a direct or remote influence and effect with regard to agricultural prosperity. Some of the most important of those influences which operate injuriously, I shall specify and explain in the course of this Address; and further, shall endeavor to show by what means our agricultural interests may be more speedily and extensively promoted.

With regard to our subject in general, it may here be remarked, that persons in all the various occupations in civilized life, depending chiefly for subsistence on the productions of the ground, so far as the abundance or scarcity of these, will each of those occupations either prosper or languish, and, consequently, so will the whole Society be either wealthy and prosperous, or poor and

embarrassed. It may, indeed, be truly affirmed, that with us, especially, a state of general prosperity can only be reached, through a zealous and persevering attention to our agricultural interest. If we take, however, an extended and unprejudiced view of the several sources affecting that prosperity, it will appear that, during the greater part of our history, none of them were so greatly neglected as our Agriculture — For this, among a number of causes which will hereafter be mentioned, these may be prominently assigned,— that the pursuit of this art was too generally considered of minor consequence towards promoting our general welfare; and that its employments were viewed by many among us, as of rather an inferior or degrading description. On enlightened and unprejudiced consideration, it must, however, be admitted, that there is no occupation in civilized life, more truly honorable, or which tends more directly to ensure the just independence and real comfort of man. It was the express appointment of his Creator, that he should procure the means of subsistence by his laborious cultivation of the ground. In this injunction, the truly enlightened and pious, reflecting on the many vices and follies to the fatal influences of which mankind are exposed, will recognize the dispensation of an all-wise and merciful Providence. In the most enlightened ages, and in many powerful and celebrated nations, Agriculture has been esteemed the most honorable and useful occupation, and some highly gifted characters, have not only employed their talents in studies and exertions for its improvement, but have not been ashamed to engage in its active operations. There is no occupation which, so far as human influences are concerned, so certainly leads to a becoming independence in every respect. The husbandman seeks the requisite means of subsistence immediately from the bounty of his beneficent Creator. However poor he may be at the commencement of his labors, yet in the exercise of prudence, temperance, and industry, and when not oppressed by his fellow men, scarcely ever does he fail to procure an ample supply for all his absolute wants. He is not, like those in many other occupations, exposed to temptations to flatter or palliate the vices of mankind, to minister to their vanities and follies, or to crouch beneath arbitrary and oppressive dictation. Under a free and equitable government, being secured in the enjoyments of his possessions, the habits of his occupation tend alike to invigorate his body and preserve it in health, to nourish the freedom of his mind, and to expand the best feelings and affections of his heart. Whatever may be the fluctuations or changes in other occupations, or in political affairs, or whatever distress they occasion, he need not look beyond his own fields for the absolute necessities of life, and as far as respects himself and his domestic circle, their sources of enjoyment continue the same. His occupation, also, has less tendency than many others, to produce those harassing cares and perplexities which sadden and embitter so many of the scenes of life; and, moreover, he is less exposed to those frauds and that injustice which in many other employments are so frequently dreaded, and through which such numbers have been suddenly reduced from a state of affluence, to dependence and misery. There is also no foundation on which the real wealth and the independence of nations can so effectually be raised, and so securely and permanently repose, as upon Agriculture. This follows, indeed, as a matter of course, if what has just been advanced respecting individuals pursuing that occupation be