

tions of improved machinery as appear to possess practical merits, and adapted to the wants and means of the farmers of this country. We hope to receive encouragement enough to enable us to illustrate when necessary both this and other portions of the work, by suitable Engravings. This department will not be exclusively confined to agricultural implements and machines, but will embrace more or less of mechanics in general, adapted to the comprehension and wants of our practical artisans. We shall look with a friendly eye on our infant manufactures, the progress of which we shall always feel happy to promote and chronicle.

We have resolved on devoting a limited space to *Horticulture*, a sister art, depending with agriculture on common principles. In all our well settled districts, particularly in the vicinities of rising towns, the subject of gardening in its various departments should receive increased attention. Whilst fruits and vegetables minister largely to man's physical necessities and comfort; shrubs and flowers ornament his dwelling, and tend to refine and elevate his taste. Although in a new country the necessities and substantial must of course be first sought and secured; yet there can be no sufficient reason why in the progress of things, the beautiful and ornamental should be entirely neglected. The externals or appendages of a home, have much more to do with the education of its inmates—particularly of the young—than is commonly imagined. The Almighty in his wisdom and goodness, has created a beautiful as well as useful world. Man by his intelligence and industry avails himself of the latter to supply his animal wants; but too frequently remains insensible to the former. The cultivation of flowers is particularly suited to the female sex, being alike promotive of the health of the body and the refinement and purity of the mind. Even on subjects of the gravest importance, we are taught by the highest authority, to look upon flowers as affording an illustration of a paternal and universal Providence. So true it is that nature, when we study her aright, ministers abundantly both to the wants of the body, and the yet higher and more enduring wants of the mind.

We also hope to devote a page or two to general science; more particularly to such portions of Natural History as have an immediate connection with rural affairs and the pursuits of the horticulturist. Contributions of this nature will always be thankfully received. Our object is not so much to give lengthened and systematic papers on any one branch of physical science, as short and simple illustrations of the more common natural phenomena of every day life. We think this will be an acceptable mode to a large portion of our readers, and be the means of

inducing a spirit of rational inquiry, and of strengthening the valuable habits of patient investigation and correct observation. It may also do something toward lessening the force of those influences which are unfavorable to self-improvement, and check the tendency to indifference and low habits. The sincere and intelligent lover of nature can never, we think, be essentially vicious or degraded. The habit of his mind has an ennobling as well as a practically useful tendency. In tracing therefore the sequences of nature, we shall not consider ourselves precluded from using on proper occasions the appropriate reverential expression. We hope in some degree to be able to rouse the minds of our country youth to a perception of the interesting sources of knowledge by which they are constantly surrounded; to point out to them the means whereby they may find

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

Our arrangements will also include information on those subjects which are usually understood as embraced by the comprehensive term,—Domestic Economy. We hope thus to be able to interest our fair readers, the mothers and daughters of our country, whose influence is indispensable in giving to society a high and correct tone of feeling. Facts and suggestions in reference to Home Education;—the physical, mental and moral training of children, and in short whatever can impart comfort and rational interest to the family circle, and make the fire-side attractive, will receive a share of attention.

It is almost unnecessary to add, that we shall scrupulously study to keep our pages clear from party politics and polemical theology. As we shall write for the people of Canada,—for the common good of our common country, we can know of no such distinctions as colour, party, race or creed.—Our readers must judge of the sincerity of these professions by the character of our deeds.

STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN IRELAND.

The Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland has commenced the publication of a quarterly journal, including reports, essays, and transactions. The first number is a highly interesting and creditable production. We hope to receive this publication regularly, after the opening of navigation in spring, together with the journals of the English and Scotch Societies, which are too bulky to be sent through the Post Office; and we shall not fail to lay before our readers a condensed account of such portions of their contents as appear suitable to this country. The Irish journal contains in its opening