

and broad way was opened up, enlightened by science and smoothed by skill, but which conducted to changes of which, in reference to their future prosperity, they were wholly ignorant. To this new and untried way they boldly trusted themselves, and their brilliant success is now to us a leading star that directs us to follow in their footsteps without fear. But to arrive at the desired end, we must in every case employ the means. It is only like causes that can produce like effects; and were we to enquire of our friends in Great Britain the principal, I had almost said the sole cause of their prosperity, and by what means they had arrived to such an exalted position in the science of Agriculture, their reply would be—"We united ourselves into Agricultural Societies." Our whole island became, as it were, one grand association for the advancement of Agriculture; in this association persons of the highest rank and attainments were to be found, and the result was the introduction of an improved system of agriculture that has done more to advance the prosperity of Great Britain than the brilliant and bloody feats of either her armies or navies.

To countries that admit of cultivation Agriculture is the grand basis of national prosperity; but as a science, agriculture will not advance unaided by combined and active exertion. One ingenious mechanic, by a happy exertion of genius and skill, may make a discovery the benefits of which may be powerfully felt throughout the whole circle of society,—nay, the exertions of a single ingenious artist may, in a manner, change the destinies of nations. An Arkwright or a Watt may, by their unaided talents and skill, exalt the manufacturing and commercial interests to the highest pitch of prosperity,—and all this may be effected without any aid either from societies or associations.

I am not aware that the like holds good in the advancement of Agriculture. The very great difference between mere inert matter, and animated and vegetable nature, is such, that while a few well-conducted experiments may lead to unerring and unchanging results in the one, a life-time may be required to attain a like knowledge in the operations of the other. Hence the evident necessity for the Agriculturists, beyond all others, of uniting in societies for the diffusion of individual knowledge,—and of effecting, by union amongst themselves, an advancement in knowledge that probably no length of time would suffice to convey to individual exertion.

But while we continue in a state of apathy and listless indifference, neglecting to unite or to make the smallest exertion towards improvement, can we expect that the capabilities of our country will ever be developed, or our prosperity, either as a community or individually, advanced, until, in short, we unite in earnest to improve our system of agriculture, we never can expect to become flourishing or independent. I have already said, and again repeat, that the true interest of every country that admits of cultivation is its agriculture: What is Peru, with its mountains of silver?—what is Brazil, with its mines of diamonds?—what is Spain, into which these stores of mineral riches flowed? Countries peopled with a horde of impoverished wretches to whom existence must be a burden. Compare their situation with that of the sturdy, independent farmer of Great Britain,—and then say who has really the greatest wealth.

But it is said that our climate is unfit for the purposes of agriculture. The same was said in England in the days of Queen Elizabeth, who, all the world knows, had to send a ship to the continent of Europe when she wished to procure the luxury of a salad. Were our climate now what that of England was then deemed, we might with some shadow of reason disclaim against all attempts to advance our welfare by means of agricultural industry and im-

provements: but so far is it otherwise may at once be perceived from the circumstance alone, that those very articles which, in Great Britain, cannot be ripened but by means of the hot house culture, are brought to perfection by us in the open air. We need not look farther for proofs of the capabilities of our climate and soil,—and did we, in our mode of culture, exercise but a part only of the skill and talent that are employed by the agriculturists in Great Britain, our extensive importations of flour and the like articles from the adjoining states would soon cease, and the money thus lost to us be employed in better purposes. But in order to arrive at this prosperous state, we must unite into societies for the purpose of acquiring a requisite knowledge of agriculture,—otherwise, we may rest assured that from our present dependent condition we never can escape.

To illustrate farther the benefits, nay the absolute necessity of forming Societies for our advancement in Agriculture, let us just take a view of the serious injuries we now sustain in one instance only, for want of a cordial union and co-operation amongst Agriculturists. Our Island long as it has been settled, has not yet been freed from the beasts of prey that infest it, and rob the farmer of his flocks and herds; and how few of our farmers can boast of having sustained no loss from the attacks of the Bear, the wild cat, and of late years, from the fox. Yet while the complaints of serious and sometimes ruinous loss is in the mouths of so many; What have their individual efforts done towards destroying those destructive animals? Why, just nothing.—Each complains of his loss to his neighbour, and some feeble efforts are now and then made by a few individuals towards thinning these robbers; but nothing like a system has as been attempted. Why?—Simply for want of union. For want of Societies to encourage and protect the Agriculturist. But let these Societies only become general over this Island, and let the severe loss that these destructive animals cause, only be equally severely felt as at present, and I hazard nothing in saying that means on a scale that will ensure their extirpation will soon be adopted. It is a well-known fact that our farmers would be comparatively well off, could they succeed in securing their sheep alone from these predators, but while our farmers neglect to unite in the attaining of this, as well as of other objects connected with their Agricultural prosperity, they have no just cause of complaint, even if their losses were greater. To attain the end we must use the means. Do we sincerely desire to promote our prosperity as Agriculturists. We must unite in Societies for that purpose, and effect by our united endeavours, that which neither could, nor would be attained by individual exertion; and how far this union is requisite, were it for the destruction of wild animals alone, may be gathered from the single fact, that although a pound of sheep's wool is worth in the market about 2s. only, (when such article is in the market, which is rarely the case,) yet the want of it to the farmer is a loss of no less than 30s., and every Farmer in Cape Breton knows to his cost the difficulty in obtaining even for money a pound of wool, when in need of it; although few climates are more favorable to the growth of sheep than that of Cape Breton.

If in this instance alone, the benefits of union are so apparent. What might not we expect when such union is directed to the improvement of our Stock, our Seeds, our Farming Implements; in short, to the improvement of our Farming system? That the system now adopted is of the most defective kind, and instead of improving rapidly exhausting our best lands, and bringing them to a state bordering on sterility, is now generally acknowledged; and more, is also becoming generally felt. In many parts of our Island when the lands were being reclaimed from the forest and their state of pristine vigour, their return was abundant, and was