

*For the Cultivator.*

Seeing that in your last number you have invited your esteemed friend from Water-down, to favour you with an illustration of the probable duties and benefits of a General Board of Agriculture for Canada, I send you the following remarks on that subject confident that neither your esteemed friend, yourself, nor your readers will look upon, my doing so as an unreasonable interference; as there can be little doubt that what I have to communicate, will be in accordance with his more comprehensive views and coming as it does from one residing in a part of the Province far distant from Water Down, who has never had the pleasure of an interchange of ideas on that or any other subject with your esteemed correspondent, may be the more strongly corroborative in so far as our opinions are found to agree.

The Agricultural class in Canada at present, *as a body*, possess but little influence little wealth, little knowledge of their profession, and little general information compared to what they ought to possess, from their number, the respectability and indispensable utility of their profession. That *union gives strength*, was well demonstrated in the days of old by the bundle of sticks which, when separated, were easily broken but, when united, were not, from the support they afforded one another; and the expression *divide and conquer*, is equally plain, and in the present day greatly in practice.

In pointing out as you desire, the probable duties and benefits of a General Board of Agriculture, it were in my opinion more injurious than profitable, to enter into a minute detail, since it is found that while many will agree on a principle, and on the necessity of effecting some important measure, the details thereof, are often subject to great diversity of opinion. Witness, for instance, the diversity of opinions amongst men on the sacred word of God, while they all profess obedience to His law, and that their various comments are for the interest of man, both in this world and in that which is to come.

It may be hoped, however, that it would not leave much room for differences of opinion, to say, that it would be part of the duty of the Board of Agriculture, to *unite the agricultural interest of Canada, and that is to make it strong*, and when it shall have *acquired the strength*, which is the consequence of union, there is little doubt that, in that Board of Agriculture, there shall be found sufficient intelligence, energy, and discretion to effect some good.

Let us take pattern from all of the most civilized classes, orders, and professions of men; the pious clergy, the public legislator, the speculator, and intelligent merchant, the practitioner in law, and in medicine, down to the poor Paisley weaver, and Manchester cotton-spinner; who all demonstrate to us that *union gives strength*. It is highly important, according to my views of the subject, that this General Board of Agriculture, should as early as formed, communi-

cate their views to the Executive Government, and that the prospectus of their proceedings, should be such as the Government would be likely to approve and patronize, for admitting, what none can deny, that the prosperity of this Province depends on the prosperity of its agricultural interest, and that there is no question, but the Government of the country is anxious to promote the general prosperity; clear reasoning and proper representations from such Board, would no doubt, receive some attention from the Government. Indeed such a Board patronized by the Government, might be highly conducive to the carrying into effect, many of the measures of the Government, and especially in the education of the rising generation.

If a practical illustration is wanted of the benefits and duties of a Board of Agriculture, we may refer to the Board of Trade of Toronto, Quebec, and Montreal, from all of which are sent forth to the public, matter not only edifying to the mercantile class, and to the public in general, but what is of much real practical use and importance to the farmer, and I believe I may venture to say, that in some cases the reports of such Boards contain more real useful information to the Government than the collective wisdom of the House of Assembly (the mercantile men excepted,) could afford on the subjects to which such reports advert. This General Board of Agriculture, could do much good in collecting, condensing, and circulating amongst the farmers the most useful information connected with the profession. They might be instrumental in showing in a more clear, condensed, and uniform view, the disabilities under which the agriculturist labours, and petitioning with more force and effect for the desired amelioration. They might aid in preventing the circulation and signing of many useless and sometimes injurious petitions, which are laid before farmers, purporting to be prayers for what is the public good while the real object is either self interest, or if not may be so worded as to injure the cause it was intended to espouse. Take as an instance of this, a petition got up about two years ago in the Home District, to the Imperial Government, praying for protection to the agricultural interest of Canada, and assigning as a reason, "that when wheat was higher in America than in Europe, that article was of less value in Canada than in the United States, because a duty was levied on foreign wheat in the States, but none was levied in Canada;" or, words to that effect. Now should the farmers of Canada generally sign such a petition, and that it should go before the Imperial Parliament, its effects could not fail to be injurious to the agricultural interest in Canada—because if we have no better cause to show, why a duty should be levied on agricultural produce than that petition contains, we never should have that duty. Fortunately, the petition met with deserved opposition, and it is to be hoped never found its way to the Mother country.

Another petition is now got up in Toronto which minds me much of an axiom, that says "if a resolution is to be moved to which you are opposed, move it yourself, and do it in such a way as to make it miscarry." This petition has four paragraphs of reasoning, or of matter showing certain facts, which it may be presumed are intended to justify, and render reasonable, the prayer of the petition. In this communication there is not room to quote this petition, it may be remarked of its first paragraph; that it does not strengthen the petition, to limit its subscribers to farmers, but on the contrary weakens it; and many of the most intelligent merchants in the Province, even the managers of Bank institutions, would sign a petition for agricultural protection.

Of the second paragraph it may be remarked that it is not the present low prices that the agriculturist rests his claim for protection on, but on a general principle, that he has ought to it, whether prices are at present ruinously low or not. Passing over the third paragraph, it may be said of the fourth, that the Legislature of this country, have already passed a law imposing a duty on American wheat, and their doing this, was highly praiseworthy under the circumstances, and how can we now sign a petition which says, "*petitioners have no wish to have any restrictions on such articles of Agricultural produce or merchandise as are introduced for the purpose of being exported to Europe or elsewhere.*" In the same paragraph, the petition, "*represents that the benefits enjoyed by the United States farmer, by having our markets open to him, are not reciprocated.*" Suppose Lord Stanley should so arrange it with the American Minister in London, that Congress should immediately pass a law granting this reciprocity of open markets in the United States to the farmers of Canada, in order to put an end to our complaints, would that benefit the agricultural interest of Canada? No. because our market is generally better than theirs; and before the Americans come to a conviction that this reciprocity would benefit rather than injure we had better lay aside the unmeaning expression, till we have something to export to the United States, that shall command generally, a better price than we can obtain in the British market, where we are favoured, or in our own home market on the banks of the St. Lawrence.

The prayer of this petition is not sufficiently comprehensive, it enumerates certain articles, and leaves out many, on which duties ought to be levied. Indian corn for instance, of which one establishment near Kingston, converts about £5,000 worth annually into whiskey.

The prayer of the petition should be for a duty on all agricultural produce, in addition to what is therein enumerated.

THE PITTSBURG FARMER.

May 25th, 1843.

FOR MAKING CLOTH WATER PROOF.—Immerse the cloth in a solution of Alum for 10 minutes, air it for 20 minutes, then immerse it in well-beaten Chalk.