

are most likely to be exhausted by cropping. A comparatively inexperienced or uninstructed person, may determine iron, umina, or salilica, those bodies which make up the bulk of soils; but when they come to the most important part, the detection and separation of these small quantities, they probably either fail to find them at all, find them when they are not there, or find altogether too much.

In view of the foregoing remarks, how inconsiderate, and how unwise, are the statements of those who would lead the farming community to think that each man is in a short time to acquire the skill to determine all problems of a chemical nature, that may present themselves in the course of his experience. It cannot be acquired by any intelligent man, but he can only accomplish it after a long course of study. When he has gone through with this course, still other difficulties present themselves; to make perfect analyses, he requires a laboratory, and rather expensive apparatus of various kinds.

A good analysis must have his undivided attention, and even then will occupy him not less than from ten days to a fortnight; and what is to become of his farm in the mean time? On the other hand, if he devotes himself actively to his practical pursuits, as every good farmer must for at least a large portion of the year, his chemical knowledge rusts and he soon loses his facility and aptitude for making reliable analyses.

The truth is, that the two pursuits are dissimilar; the chemist may and should know much of practical agriculture, but still his main business must be chemistry; the farmer may and should know much of science, but his daily occupation must be in the field. His leisure time may be more greedily and profitably employed in gaining scientific knowledge, but the business of analysis, and accurate chemical investigations, must be left with those who are trained to it: all points alone which practice can not explain, must go to them.

But some objectors continue, "It is an immense tax on the farmer that he must have every soil analysed, every manure thoroughly examined; these investigations are expensive, and are unattainable for this reason, by the great majority of the community." This is quite true, but it is no less true that the great majority will never require such minute analysis. If the soils in a particular district are all formed from the same rock, one or two careful analyses will suffice to determine the general character of the whole. So with manures; a few analyses of any particular kind will settle its value, in whatever part of the country it may be used. In cases where there is any thing particularly obscure or puzzling, in a soil or field, chemical analysis must be called upon to solve the question.

In most situations, as knowledge of these subjects increases, the intelligent farmer will daily be come more qualified to experiment himself, for particular purposes, using manures of known composition: he may thus frequently arrive, unassisted, at just and important conclusions.

There are moreover, some points upon which the practical man may experiment, without becoming a chemist, and without previous instruction.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA, FOR 1849.

This Report is principally made up from the Agricultural Reports, about thirty in number, of the various local Societies in correspondence with the central Board of Agriculture in Halifax. Each Society states the amount of its subscriptions, including the legislative grant, and disbursements, the condition of the crops for the year, with miscellaneous remarks on live stock, improved culture, farm implements, &c. The information is interesting, and would be more useful if given in greater detail. The system in Nova Scotia of managing Agricultural Societies, &c., seems very similar to that contained in the new Agricultural Bill now before the legislature of Canada, for the Upper Province. We give the following summary, at the conclusion of the Report:—

### *Practical Remarks on the annexed Reports.*

The collective Reports of the Local Societies in correspondence with the Central Board of Agriculture at Halifax, demonstrate that during the past season, the Potato crops through out the country have been nearly exempt from disease, the only instance of the recurrence of "blight," in malignant form, occurred in a district occupying one mile from east to west, and four miles from south to north, in the centre of Parrsborough; this tract of land was struck with the "blight," and about half the crop of potatoes lost. Another instance of its recurrence is recorded in the West, in the Report; partial indications of disease were observable in many other parts of the country, but mild in its form contrasted with former years. There can exist no doubt that the extreme dry weather, which prevailed throughout the months of July and August, was a great means of checking the potato disease, as it must now be obvious to every observing mind, that the atmosphere is the chief repository of the disease, and we may consider our potato crops in a measure saved at the expense of the hay crop. Confidence in the potato crop is sufficiently restored to induce a speedy return to extended culture.

The wheat crops have been exempt from the ravages of "Elator Viscater," or wheat fly, which has caused devastation in its track in almost all wheat growing countries. Circumstances connected with the history of this destructive insect, warrant the belief that its course here has terminated for a time; and we think there is little risk in adopting our usual sowings. As a precautionary measure, however, a due proportion of the Black Sea, and Northern Wheats should be sown early in the month of June; by this late sowing the risk of the "fly" is obviated, and these varieties will ripen in our climate after that period in all ordinary seasons. The greatest risk consequent on late sowing in Nova Scotia, is rust in the straw; this may in a great measure be avoided by adopting the following rules. Choose