

Agricultural Societies have introduced and encouraged the best breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine—the best kinds of wheat and other grains, as well as improved agricultural implements, of various forms and descriptions. Through their exertions, and the introduction of ploughing matches, and other useful incentives to rivalry, a valuable change has been effected in the art of husbandry; straight furrows, clean fields, and a judicious rotation of crops, have been obtained. These improvements, aided by a praiseworthy competition amongst the farmers themselves, have secured such returns for their labor, that despite the low price of wheat hitherto, the agriculturalists are, as a class—I may venture to say, in a prosperous condition, if we may judge from the flourishing appearance of their farms, from their handsome and well built dwelling houses, their large and commodious out-houses and barns, and the highly improved character of their stock. These things, added to the creditable show which they make, on suitable occasions, with their excellent carriages and horses, and the comfortable and independent manner in which they live, betoken an advanced state of improvement amongst us, that cannot fail to bring with it a large share of happiness and contentment.

In our villages, towns and cities, the same progress is visible. The wilderness has become the thriving village—the lately insignificant village has become the busy and populous town—and the town of a few years existence has grown into a city, lit with gas, filled with throngs of busy people, and lined with shops, which, whether we look at their magnificent plate glass windows, massive doors or well filled shelves, would not disgrace Regent street or Oxford street, in London.

Correct styles of Architecture have of late years been introduced, and generally adopted, not alone in the chaste designs of our many public buildings, but by our enterprising citizens, in the erection of their splendid private dwellings. And landscape gardeners, find ample employment, in beautifying the grounds, and improving the outskirts of our large towns and cities.

On our Lakes, Rivers, and Canals, are transported every year, an increasing amount of the surplus productions of our Farms to other markets, and manufactured goods are brought back in their stead. These same Rivers and Lakes are now navigated by fleets of noble steamers, which for safety, speed, convenience and elegance, can scarcely be equalled—and our sailing craft, occasionally take in their loading on the shores of Lake Huron, and unship in the spacious Harbour of Halifax.

But whilst I am proud to acknowledge the rapid progress which has been made within the last ten years in all sections of the Country; I should prove false to our best interests, and greatly betray the trust you have reposed in me, did I not at the same time declare that I think there is still much room for improvement, and very great cause, indeed I am inclined to believe an imperative necessity exists for our Farmers to turn their attention to new sources of wealth.

From the first settlement of the country, Eng-

land has been our Market for whatever wheat and flour we had to spare, after supplying our own wants, and for years, we possessed the advantage of sending her these productions, at a mere nominal duty, whilst foreign countries were subject to a high tariff. But now, under the altered policy of England, no duty, or at best only a nominal one is levied on wheat and flour, let it come from whence it may—and we have, therefore, to compete in the markets of Great Britain, with the wheat—producing countries of the whole world, with France, Belgium, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Egypt, Australia, and the immense fields of the American Union.

In many of these countries, wheat can be produced cheaper than it has as yet been produced by us, because our labor furnishes the grower the means of raising his crops at comparatively an inexpensive rate, and securing them with certainty when ripe, instead of being, as we are here, subjected to a heavy outlay of wages for the like service, and unable to procure hands, as is frequently the case, at the critical moment when they are most required. In others, the facilities for sending their productions to the English market are far greater and less expensive than ours; and as England now draws her supplies from so many different portions of the globe, a scarcity in one country would not materially, if at all, affect her markets,—inasmuch as that scarcity, in ordinary cases, would hardly reach the other wheat growing countries which supply her; and the result of the recent English elections holds out to us little inducement to hope for any decided change of policy in our favor.

Such then being evidently the state at which we have arrived, our farmers should consider well, whether by the introduction of more labor-saving machines, and by better management on their farms, they can reduce the cost at which they have hitherto raised this staple commodity.

The wheat crop is a beautiful one—delightful to contemplate—associated with the most cheerful and animating reflections; nothing can be more pleasing to the eye of a philanthropist than waving fields of golden grain. Our farmers have arrived at a high degree of skill in its production. Its cultivation tends to keep their farms in good condition, and it answers well in a regular rotation of crops; but it cannot be delivered at our mills or storehouses at about three shillings and sixpence currency per bushel, I fear it must cease to be our staple production. In the neighborhood in which I live, the reaping machine has been freely used by our best farmers this year; but whether this will effect a sufficient reduction in the cost of raising wheat I leave for those more competent to decide than I am.

It must be observed however, that whilst the price of wheat has of late years been declining, happily the price of meat, has been rising; and there is reason to believe, that the present high price of the latter will be maintained as steadily as will the low price of the former. The change has been caused in a great measure by the American Railroads, which have carried our meat to supply the constantly increasing wants of New York and the other great Atlantic cities. This is