

sure and advantage to be derived from this source, for the paltry saving of a few shillings, when, perhaps, he will think nothing of spending a much larger sum on some useless, yea, worse than useless, indulgence. "Yet, 'tis true, and pity 'tis, 'tis true," for although all may not be able to avail themselves of the more costly publications to which I have previously alluded, there is no excuse for those who deprive themselves and families of the advantages to be derived from cheap works, such as those published amongst ourselves. Now this should be kept in view by every member of this Association, and it should be his endeavour to propagate a taste for agricultural reading.

I trust a brighter era is dawning upon us in this respect, and that the improvement in our educational system, will, be such, as shall at no very distant day, place it in the power of all, to enjoy the advantages of such an education as will enable every farmer to call to his aid all the benefits of science and experience, as well as to enjoy the pleasures of his honourable and useful calling, in a more intelligent manner.

The interest manifested in agricultural affairs by the illustrious Nobleman now at the head of our government, is a guarantee that, as far as he is concerned, our interests will not be neglected; and we know there are some individuals in the Legislative Council, able and willing to co-operate with him; and, gentlemen, it is our fault if the branch of the legislature over which we have a more immediate control, is not so constituted as to secure a proper attention to our interests on their part. By agriculture alone can be advanced the general prosperity of the country. I am aware there can be no such thing as separate class interests, for we are mutually dependant upon each other; but agriculture is, and ever must be, the ground work of the whole. It is mortifying to hear it remarked by those lately arrived from Great Britain, where the land is cultivated in a very superior manner, that some parts of Canada look as if the people had farmed themselves out. Yet notwithstanding as it is, these are the remarks we are compelled to listen to, and, against our dictum. Facts are stubborn things; and in many parts of Canada such an exhausting course of culture has been pursued, without adding what was necessary to sustain the productive powers of the soil, that it has become so reduced, and the yield consequently so small, as to scarcely

adequately remunerate the cultivator for the expense of harvesting, leaving him minus all the other expenses, as well as interest of his capital.

This ought not to be. No man should allow his farm to deteriorate in quality in the smallest degree; nor will he, if he possess the true and proper feeling of a farmer. But to ensure this feeling, he must be an educated man, and it must be an education especially practical, to ensure the desired results. Hence the necessity of instructing rightly the rising generation, who are not only to be the future tillers of the soil, but many of them leaders in our public affairs, and whose influence, if properly educated, will produce a salutary effect upon our moral and social condition. The farmer occupies a position in society the most important to the well being of his country. His influence therefore, for good or for evil, will have a most decided bearing on its interests for all time to come, and he should have placed within his reach advantages for the cultivation of his mind, and obtaining knowledge useful to him in his profession, so as to furnish him with that practical information which will enable him rightly to appreciate and discharge his important duties.

It has been well said that the Almighty has graciously provided every thing in the world that can conduce to the benefit of His creatures; but having endowed man with the faculty of reason, He has, in His wisdom, left many of these benefits undeveloped, for the purpose of exercising that reason, and calling forth that skill, which would otherwise lie dormant. Therefore a proper education is necessary to enable man to employ his physical powers to the greatest possible advantage.

It is to be hoped, that in the system of education which is hereafter to be pursued in this country, that which is peculiarly adapted to the benefit of agriculture, will not be entirely overlooked, and that, while the candidate for the Pulpit, the Medical Profession, and the Bar, are trained with special reference to the profession in life each is to follow,—the Farmer, while he participates in the ordinary branches of education, will be afforded an opportunity of receiving such instruction as will suitably prepare him also for the profession to which his life is to be devoted,—and that it will no longer be taken for granted that the Farmer is in no need of peculiar attention as regards the cultivation of his mind, and the improvement of his powers, as if science and the cultiva-