

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—I have had much pleasure in perusing your Agricultural Journal, although I have not for many years been interested in farming operations, consequently, the various improvements in stock, the discoveries with regard to soil and the necessary system adopted to render them fertile and beneficial to the farmer, are subjects so ably treated by you, that the only observation I would offer on that head, is, that the Canadas are infinitely indebted for the valuable information your journal contains, and your unwearied exertions to promote that valuable science.

The utility of the plough is also an object of admiration, and on this subject, I presume to offer a few remarks. It is an old saying, "a bad reaper never got a good sickle, nor a bad ploughman a good plough;" in this the same as in any other profession, it must be admitted that experience must be pursued according to reason and sound principles, or the practice can never lead to anything like perfection.

The horse is one of the noblest animals we have, for our use, and often ill-treated by the young man who has him in his charge; he calls violently to him, strikes him with the reins, and then commands him to stop. The horse may be a spirited one, if so, this is the sure way to spoil him, and he will defy the young ploughman from ever excelling in that profession. Let him first understand how his plough runs, and how the irons ought to be placed, the coulter of some ploughs requiring to be moved more or less to or from the land, according to the construction of that implement, the draught to be taken from the lower bore of the muzzle if possible, and not to exceed in height the bore next the lowest. The harness properly fitted for the horses, bringing the swingle trees of the land and furrow horse level, cross coupling them, and in the constant and daily practice required. Speak calmly and distinctly to his horses, at same time guiding them gently with the reins, and looking well to his furrow from the side of the beam, by which he can discover the least crook and easily improve it. He must be on good terms with his horses, by that means they can be taught to know and obey him, otherwise,

he can never arrive at that mechanical excellence in ploughing that reason and simplicity so clearly dictate.

I am, Sir,
Yours, truly,

SMITH LEITH.

Port St. Francis, 19th Sept., 1849.

PROFESSOR JOHNSTON'S LECTURE AT KINGSTON.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—I had no idea a few days ago of addressing an audience in Canada, on the principles of *Scientific Agriculture*, and as that audience must necessarily be composed of persons whose manners I must be in a great degree ignorant of, although they be part and parcel of the same people I am accustomed to, yet you must admit that my not being thoroughly acquainted with the country prevents my enlarging as I would wish to do on the subject. In considering the science of *Agricultural Chemistry*, the range of topics is so large and my not being sufficiently experienced in the nature of your soil, or of your skill in *Agriculture*, preventing my going into them generally, I might address you on the importance of *Agriculture* in this Province, or I might address you on the natural excellence and fertility of the soil, and by what means its fertility might be improved, or of the utility of *Science* to *Agriculture*, but I have not had the means of knowing whether or not the topic was interesting to you; but I will select a few points which have an especial connexion with this country in regard to *Husbandry*, such as the raising of such crops as will bring the highest price in the markets, and the proper state for the soil to be in to raise such crops. There are many causes operating against the improvement of *Agriculture* here; but I think the principal one has arisen from the ignorance of the original settlers, who left home knowing nothing, and continued all their life in ignorance. Another cause is from ignorance of the rotation of crops. What the father has done the sons will do, because there are no schools of *Agriculture* and no means of learning improvement, and they go on putting in crops that exhaust the soil, till as in the fable of the goose that laid the golden eggs, they lose the prize. Another cause both in this Province and that of New Brunswick, New England, Nova Scotia, and even in the United States, is that the people have no interest in their land, but move to where they think they will make more money, and do all they can to impoverish the soil; now what is the consequence, gentlemen? you must be all aware that the wheat crop has deteriorated in all those countries; now it will be well for us to consider the means by which such land may be restored.

A great deal of good may be done by the use of lime; I could mention many cases at home where land has been much exhausted and lime