

ment would call for a far larger amount of cultivation per acre, and a greater expenditure for fertilizers and machinery than generally obtains. The mass need no choking in this respect, but the few who do are most likely to be found among the readers of the *Agriculturist*.

Having sufficiently pointed out the danger of over-doing in science, we may the more heartily urge the old grannies to their duty. It is true that nearly every farmer cultivates too many acres of land. It is true that few farmers avail themselves so fully as is profitable of the improvements of the age, either in fertilizers, cultivation, rotation, drainage, irrigation, harvesting or curing. Thousands, yes, millions of dollars are annually lost to the country and to the world through the ignorance and obstinacy of farmers, which a very few dollars of time pleasantly applied to the reading of a still fewer dollars worth of information, would have entirely avoided; while at the same time, the obtuse mind of the hard-fisted labourer would have been expanded and developed, and his capacity and means for enjoyment greatly increased. Store, then, the mind with facts, and diligently cultivate the judgment to discriminate. If reapers and harvesters, ditching machines, sub-soil ploughs, experiments in drainage, &c., cost too much to be expedient for one, club together the neighboring farmers, and make a purchase or experiment. Form associations for mutual comparison of data—this might and should be done in every village of Canada—quicken your perceptions by rubbing together ideas, and multiply your experience by giving others the benefit. Neighboring experiments, where soils, climates, and distances from market are necessarily very similar, are far more valuable in practice than distant ones, which may be paraded with more ostentation. Do not look for *immense* results in any experiment. It is unfair to ignore progress unless the results are three or four-fold the old method. Do not expect a gain of more than 10 per cent, all things considered; but if this can be accomplished every year, or even once, without again retrograding, the result is sufficient to make all the difference between profitable farming and absolute bankruptcy.

If you have cattle to consume it, the Chinese sugar cane may be planted, and very possibly with good effect, as green fodder; but do not, we beg you, expect to make sugar or respectable molasses, without elaborate and expensive ma-

chinery, and a reasonable amount of care and enlightened experience. The Chinese potato is very different in this respect, and may ultimately be of great value as food for man, or as a root to store for winter use in feeding; but a score of experiments in a town are very nearly as good as a thousand, and far better, unless the thousand are properly conducted. There are some whose tastes incline them to such efforts. Aid such "martyrs to science" in experimenting, and compare notes carefully on the results, but do not each spend half the summer in tending these strange plants, covering the joints of the vines, &c., to find at the year's end that you have been *almost* successful.

We have in mind nothing which we care to designate particularly, as imposition on the farming public; but although interested parties are always crying *immense* results, the farmer who expects such from any one step may generally be set down as a deluded man. There are those who are "wide awake" to speculate in novelties; but the great mass must be content to accumulate by carefully and skilfully grouping together almost trifling economies, with a view to produce the greatest possible quantum of finished goods, at the least possible price.

### ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

The following circular has been addressed to the Secretaries of all County Agricultural Societies in Upper Canada.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF UPPER CANADA.

*Toronto, January 5th, 1863.*

SIR,—I am instructed by the Board of Agriculture, on the eve of the Annual General Meeting of your Society, for the Election of Officers, and adoption of a Report, &c., which, under the existing Statute, must take place during the Third week in January, to request the attention of your Society to the following subjects:—

#### The Annual Report and Election of Officers.

The Statute states what information shall be given in the Report, viz. 1. The names of members during the past year, and the amount of subscription paid by each. 2. A list of the premiums awarded, stating the amount of each, and to whom, and for what awarded. 3. A detailed statement of the receipts and expenditure. 4. Such remarks and suggestions upon the Agriculture and Horticulture of the Country, and Arts and Manufactures therein, as the Directors shall be enabled to offer.

It is requisite that the statement of receipts