

field which had been skinned time out of mind and would not return a new for an old one. On the precipitate retreat of the army the rum was all staved and the field inundated with the liquor. From that time it was remarkable for its fertility and so continued. My informant left when a young man; and this statement was afterwards confirmed by an older and permanent inhabitant from that part of the States. Excuse my poverty of language. Your pen may attract the attention of the Board of Agriculture to the value of Marl and may induce the Directors to offer Premiums for its application to land, in several locations, in order that its worth may be tested.

RAMBLER.

P. S. The parties who were concerned in Mr. Lee's patent, were Everett & Co., Bankers, London. This Bank dissolved, I believe, previous to 1820.

[* The per centage of Lime in Marls which constitute their chief value as fertilizers, is very various. We have known 40 and even 50 or 60 cart loads applied per acre, in some parts of England. Our correspondent must have misunderstood the purport of our remarks. We have frequently applied from 100 to 150 bushels of chalk lime to the acre. In that case the dose was sufficient for a long rotation. Many of the Marls in Canada, possess a highly fertilizing power.—EDITOR.]

PLEASURES OF AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS—SUGGESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROVINCIAL PREMIUM LIST.

Wolf Island, Kingston, July 25, 1851.

(To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.)

DEAR SIR,

There are few situations in human life in which a man can be employed more innocently, more honorably, and, to the world in general, more profitably, than that of the farmer. His life is (*ceteris paribus*) attended with fewer temptations than that of most other men, and in pursuing his calling to the utmost extent, he is not only not doing violence to any dictum of conscience, but is actually, when doing most to develop the resources of nature, doing most to advance the general interests of mankind in connection with the particular interests of himself. His occupation too is a healthy one; he breathes the healthful atmosphere of the country, treading on her green velvet carpet and canopied by her deep blue sky. The volume of nature lies open before him, and every blade, and shrub, and blossom has its mystery, and its history, and invites inquiry, and amply repays the humblest student of those laws which regulate its inward structure and external

mould. Then to a being ever changeable and ever changing, as is man, how beautifully consonant is nature—her endless varieties of productions—her ever varying seasons—the meadow and its grasses—the pasture and its flocks—the field and its grains and its roots—and the garden, its fruits and flowers—winter and summer and their intermediate changes—all endued with beauties of their own, where the eye is practised and the heart in tune.

But, alas! how have I rambled from my appointed task!

When honorable minds fired with enthusiasm for an honorable though a not duly appreciated, pursuit, lend then time and talents to its advance, we ought to be careful not unnecessarily to find fault; but it is not also characteristic of minds of the same stamp to listen to advice honestly given, and if acquiesced in, to amend what in a moment of haste may have been overlooked.

Now what, I may ask, is the practical end to be answered by demanding that each person competing for a prize should exhibit "two bushels," and not one bushel, of "Swedish turnips, red carrots, white carrots, long red mangel wurtzel, yellow globe, do., parsnips?" Or is such a regulation not calculated to prevent persons at a distance from bringing such cumbersome, heavy articles at all? Let us fancy an individual coming from the interior parts of the Haron or London districts with twelve bushels of roots! Why, it would not require many such loads to freight a ship. When the show was held in Kingston in '49, I, in accordance with the then regulation, exhibited a bushel of sugar beets, but was awarded only the second prize, though the person who obtained the first prize, my brother-in-law's gardener, actually exhibited only two roots, because as, I think, he told me he had but the two. I think I know the reason for adopting the regulation of the Board, but there are few people who cannot as easily, by extra and extravagant care, raise two bushels of good roots as easily as one. I live nearer than most people to the place of exhibition, but knowing what I do of the difficulty of conveying large heavy loads of things to boat, by boat, and from boat, I doubt if I shall be tempted, much as I should like to compete, to take two bushels of stuff of any one kind. Perhaps many will think with me, an alteration of regulation in this or other particulars might, if judged desirable, be signified through your paper and the public press, to the public generally.

Again, why have the Board ignored the existence of the long yellow mangel wurtzel, and on what grounds do they withhold a premium from it and confer one each of two other kinds actually named to the exclusion of it? Or why allow of one bushel of sugar beet being presented and yet demand two bushels of the aforementioned?

Again, it appears to me somewhat remarkable that, whilst Durham Cows are to be awarded prizes in their own peculiar class as contradistinguished from Devons, or Ayrshires; and that, whilst Leicester Sheep, and South Downs, are to have