

## Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, JANUARY 1st, 1849.

TWO PAPERS IN ONE, BEING A CONSOLIDATION OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR AND THE CANADA FARMER.

Henceforward the readers of each of the above papers, will have the advantage of a perusal of *both*, without the trouble of reading, or the expense of procuring more than *one*. This may seem a reversal of the process, so often lauded as a national benefit, of "making two blades of grass to grow where one grew before." But there is this to be said; although but one journal will hereafter flourish where two existed before, yet if all the valuable parts of both be preserved—if all the ability and experience of the conductors of both be employed in the production of the *one*, while the price, postage, &c., remain the same as either of the others singly, the public have not gained a loss, but a profit by the change. No paper, Agricultural, Literary or Political, can be properly conducted, be of advantage to the public, or long sustained, unless the proprietors realize from it a sufficient income to cover *at least* all expenses. It is surely discouraging enough to spend one's time, to undergo the anxiety, the study, the labour of journalism, to consume days in reading and nights in writing for a periodical newspaper, and to receive no remuneration in return, except the very unsubstantial and generally unprofitable reward of *friendly wishes*, and perchance a considerable share of public approval. Unless he can find some thing more tangible, more consoling than this, God help the poor Editor. And as in this country the labors of the Editor, and the responsibilities and risks of the Proprietor, nearly always centre in one person, how can it be expected that there shall be energy and interest in the editorial columns, when there is a large balance of principal and interest in the debtor columns of the Printer's and Paper-maker's account book? Can a man keep a well filled head with an empty pocket? Or will he show much discretion in drawing from the one after it has become apparent, that through want of discretion he has nothing left to draw from the other? In short, will any man work with satisfaction and advantage to his employer, unless there is some fair prospect that he will get paid for it? No.

The *Cultivator* has struggled through an existence of six years, its circulation gradually increasing until at last a point has been reached, that if a proper system had been adopted, would enable the proprietors to pay all expenses, and divide something as a profit. But in consequence of an agreement with Agricultural Societies, by which they obtained the work at half price, although its circulation was greatly increased, the amount realized has been so small, that the *whole* has been absorbed in expenses, and in the liquidation of the debt incurred during the first two or three years of the publication, when it did not pay for itself. The original proprietor of the *Cultivator* who has been obliged to edit it from its commencement with little or no assistance, and to manage the correspondence and a great portion of the business connected with it, has at no time been able to say, "here is the reward of my labour in the shape of *cash*, over and above my disbursements" He has been obliged to give his attention to other employments in order to *live*, and if under such circumstances the paper was but poorly conducted, was less valuable, less interesting than may have been expected, we think there is little cause for wonder. It has been an "up hill" business from the very outset, and we believe those in any degree qualified to judge, will give us credit for energy, perseverance, and a *desire to do good*, though

we have had but little means to do it. Of *one* thing we feel certain, that many better men would long ago have given up in despair, if not disgust. And were the same task again placed before us with all its toils, anxieties, and discouragements, we should infinitely prefer to break stones on the highway, both as to the pleasure and the profit.

There is some consolation, however, in the reflection, that amid all this difficulty and labour, results have been attained which form a foundation for the belief, that we shall not in the end be out of pocket by the enterprise, and that we have therein and thereby done important service to our native country. The Editor of the *Cultivator* thinks he may justly take to himself the credit of having awakened a general attention throughout the British Provinces, to the advantage and necessity of improvement in farming, and combined organized action for the purpose of placing the great Agricultural interests of our own country on such a footing, as to secure a certain prosperity and lasting happiness. Societies have been formed, agencies created, and movements begun, which have resulted, and must continue to result in great good to the country at large, and but for the existence of the *Cultivator*, and the persevering labors of its Editor, some of these might never have come into operation, and all of them would have been delayed to a later day. As the first and only Agricultural Journal in this country, whose circulation has extended to thousands, to Lower Canada as well as Upper Canada, to Nova Scotia and the other Eastern Provinces; as the only one which has given evidence of its ability to live by having attained its sixth year in a healthy state, and as the one which has suggested and advocated and introduced useful movements, and excited a much needed interest in agricultural improvement among the farmers of the country, we think it is entitled to general support from its former patrons in its new and associated character, and we claim for the "AGRICULTURIST AND CANADIAN JOURNAL," embracing the *Cultivator*, and a new laborer in the same field, the *Canada Farmer*, the countenance and support of the public at large.

The *Canada Farmer* has been before the public for one year, and during that time has earned a very fair reputation, and obtained a large number of subscribers. The plan of the publication and the variety of its contents are, we feel sure, calculated to make it better suited to the wants and wishes of the Agricultural community than one issued monthly, and devoted to Agriculture alone. The *Farmer* was published *twice* a month, and in addition to subjects connected with Agriculture, treated of Literature, Science, questions of general interest to the public, irrespective of party, news of the day, market prices, &c., &c., making in the whole an interesting family newspaper, afforded at a price so low as to place it within the reach of every one, be his circumstances what they might. The Proprietors of both Journals found that at the price charged, it would be impossible to realize any thing in the shape of remuneration, so long as both continued to divide the public support. If each could have secured a circulation of 8 or 10,000, and could have acted strictly on the "cash in advance" system, both might have lived and yielded a small profit, and possibly some good might have grown out of the emulation that must necessarily have existed between the Proprietors. But in the present backward state of the country, in reference to the subjects chiefly contemplated by these Journals, such lists of *paying* subscribers were quite unattainable. To save ourselves from inevitable loss, we have merged our papers into one, in behalf of which we expect, and think we have some right to claim the favor and support of the Agricultural public, and indeed of all who feel interested in the general improvement of this young, but fast growing country.