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**WAR AGAINST THE THISTLES.**

We perceive that a Bill has been introduced by Mr. Stirton into Parliament to prevent the spread of Canada Thistles in Upper Canada, and all true friends of Agriculture must ardently desire to see it speedily become law. Why the Bill should be confined to Upper Canada we are at a loss to conceive, seeing that the Eastern section of the Province is upon the whole more infected with this pernicious weed than the western. A similar law has recently been passed in Pennsylvania, and from recent old country papers we learn that the same complaint is made in various districts of the United Kingdom. The truth is the permitting of thistles and other kinds of weeds among cultivated crops is, perhaps, the greatest of all obstacles to the advancement and profitableness of agricultural pursuits in all parts of the world; and therefore we hail every attempt, whether by the Legislature or otherwise, to prevent, or at least to mitigate, this wide-spread and destructive nuisance. Mr. Stirton's Bill might, perhaps, have been made a little more stringent, and have included all other weeds, the seeds of which are disseminated by the winds. Objections may possibly be raised by a few narrow-minded thinkers, or such as do not think at all, to interference with what they call private rights and privileges; but the question is not, unfortunately, one of mere private or individual concern, inasmuch as it affects the interests of a whole neighborhood. It appears just as right and reasonable that one neighbour should be

allowed to throw his cattle into the fields of another, as to injure the crops of those fields by permitting thistles to grow and ripen; and thus, by the agency of the wind, sow broadcast over them the seed. One would imagine that the good sense and obvious interest of farmers would be sufficient to induce them to use every available means of preventing the spread of such an evil, without legislative interference, but experience unfortunately shows that such is not the case. Let the friends of clean cultivation therefore persevere, and remember that however good a law they may obtain to mitigate or prevent the growth of destructive weeds, *everything will depend upon it's being fully and impartially carried into execution.* The evil is of such a nature that it must be grappled with everywhere, and by everybody. If only one or two farmers in a township, or even a county, allow thistles to ripen, it will take but a very few years before the whole country becomes infected, and consequently the expense of culture increased, and the crops diminished.

The Bill in question imposes a fine on any person who shall knowingly vend any grass or other seed among which there is any seed of the Canada thistle. It would be well if the spirit of this clause could be carried out with reference to the seeds of weeds generally. Too little care, by far, is exercised either by buyer or seller, as to the purity of agricultural seeds generally. Although grain of late years has been cleaned for market than formerly, still one too frequently observes wheat, barley, &c., so mixed