

could have done the same. What we should claim credit for would be, having a farm in good meadow and pasture, and any other crops cultivated upon it, that would be necessary to maintain this meadow and pasture in order, to be also good and clear. Of course these cultivated crops should include green crops, or summer fallow in due proportion to the cereals grown, and to the live stock kept upon the farm. We would further wish to see a farm having trees for ornament and shelter, either spared from the original forest, or planted. It may be objected that a farm chiefly under grass and live stock, is not the most useful employment of the land, but in this country there is abundance of land in proportion to the population, and we maintain that a farm cannot be more advantageously employed than in good meadow and pasture, as well for the owner as for the country generally, always providing that there is a reasonable proportion kept in tillage, to keep the meadow and pasture in good condition. If there is a farm under grass, and in good condition, it can be brought into cultivation at any moment, if it is necessary, and we can be sure to produce good and clean crops; if chiefly tillage it is not so easy to insure good crops, or to bring it soon into good meadow and pasture if it is desirable and profitable to do so. We may be in error, but had we to purchase a farm, we would greatly prefer one under good meadow and pasture to one chiefly in tillage, under the best cultivation in Canada, provided the soil was of equally good quality naturally. We would estimate the skill and judgment of a farmer by seeing his management of land, but we would decidedly give the preference in our estimate to him who would have his farm in good meadow and pasture, and who would have his land ornamented and sheltered with trees and well drained.

THE LATE GREAT FIRE IN MONTREAL.

This is a subject that may be considered out of place in an Agricultural Journal, but such an extensive calamity as that which occurred in Montreal within the last month, is a

great public loss to the country as well as the city. The number of houses destroyed altogether is not, perhaps, less than one fifth, or one sixth of the whole city. This cannot fail to operate unfavorably upon the country as well as the town. We view this destruction of property as an occurrence that might have been prevented by ordinary precaution and a previous judicious organization of the firemen of the city, under the control and direction of competent parties. It is true that the fireman and five engines were upon the spot during that fire, but we certainly could not perceive any check given to the progress of the fire through their means; the fire appeared only to be stopped when there were no more houses to be consumed in the line of its progress. When it first commenced, had there been sufficient water and a well organized and directed company of firemen, we are persuaded the fire might have been prevented from spreading. Not only at this last great fire, but at all others that have occurred in Montreal, there have been the loudest complaints for the wants of a sufficient supply of water. This is indeed a most extraordinary circumstance, and the great river St. Lawrence washing the front of the city for more than three miles. The water might also be taken from the Lachine rapids to a reservoir that would command most of the city. It is truly most discreditable to see property destroyed to such a vast extent, time after time, for want of water to stop the fire. In this late instance, after so many warnings, it was ridiculous to see the fire engines depending chiefly for a supply of water carted to them from a distance in puncheons. An old woman might as well attempt to quench the most violent eruption of Mount *Ætna* with water from a tea-pot. A few fire engines in good order, well worked, with abundance of water to keep up a continual stream, would stop any fire if applied in time, but we believe the supply of water at the last fire was not at any time sufficient to keep the engines at work for many minutes together. We submit these few remarks not to give offence to any party, but in order to