

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN



# CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

VOL. III.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1844.

NO. 1.



## THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1844.

### MONTHLY CALENDAR.

In this season of the year, when frost and snow impede the progress of the plough and almost all other out-door work, the flail and thrashing machine should be industriously employed. Manure may be drawn to the fields, (especially stable-manure,) which should be thrown in large heaps and covered with pond-mud, or peat soil, which will retain the gasses from the manure-heap and will be found equally as valuable for top dressing grass lands as the finest quality of barn-yard manure. Now is a good time, when the roads are good, to carry all kinds of artificial manure. When the farmers, in the back country, return from market, they should carry with them gypsum, and salt, for top dressing a portion of their autumn and spring crops in the month of May. Foot is also a most powerful fertiliser, every bushel of which should be saved and applied to the crops. Repeated experiments have proved that a mixture of three bushels of house

ashes with two bushels of salt, sown broadcast, on an acre of wheat, will add ten or twelve bushels per acre to its productiveness. This is a good season to draw lime-stone, and wood to prepare for burning lime for the soil, which should be extensively employed on all heavy lands—the quantity necessary for most descriptions of heavy soils, would range from forty to fifty bushels per acre. If the farmer should doubt the efficacy and profitableness of the application of the above stimulants, to the soil which they cultivate, it would at least be worthy of a trial on a small scale. As low as the prices of agricultural products have been for the past few years, it would have remunerated the farmer to have expended more time and capital, in collecting and applying manure, than have been done. A ton of barn-yard manure is worth ten shillings, and near large towns and cities is worth a pound, as well as one pound is worth another. How very careful, then, should the farmer be of his manure heap. Instead of permitting the rich juices to evaporate, or to run off from his barn-yard to enrich his neighbour's fields, he should sink a cistern or tank in a convenient place in his farm-yard, with drains leading to it from his several farm-offices, to retain the rich liquid until the month of May, for the use of the crops. Look to your fences, and in such places as require additional rails, have drawn to the spot either rails, or suitable timber for making them, so that they may be thoroughly repaired in the spring. Attend to your live stock, recollect "what is worth doing is worth well-doing." No farmer should keep more live stock than could be profitably kept in good condition. Give your sheep and cattle a liberal supply of common salt in their troughs; keep a lump always in your horses' mangers. It will be found, that the improved general health

of every description of live stock will well reward your care in this respect; remember, also, that regular good feeding is better than irregular profusion. Attend to their cleanliness and warmth, filth and cold are much more prejudicial to ~~the~~ live stock, and much more materially retard their fattening, than the farmer commonly imagines. Choice varieties of seeds should be sought after by the farmer at this season, and those who have any thing of rare excellence in their possession, to dispose of, they should exhibit it in the market, or advertise it for sale.—If this principle was generally acted upon, a decided improvement would be manifest in all farming operations. All the wood required for a twelve-month may now be drawn home, and piled under the wood shed for future use. Every farmer should make it a point to draw a quantity of logs to the saw-mill, so that a supply of boards and lumber will always be on hand in readiness for use. Make preparations for making maple sugar. The produce from two hundred full grown, thrifty trees, will give an abundant supply of sugar for the generality of farm-houses, during a twelvemonth,—from two to three pounds may be made from each tree.—This is the proper season for manufacturing vessels to catch the sap and store it for the sugar boilers.

Winter months is a proper time for both old and young to store their minds with useful ideas. Head work in winter is of as much importance as hand work in summer. Those who imagine that they are already models of perfection in all matters relating to practical farming should recollect that the wisest and best experienced agriculturists in Britain evince a degree of interest truly astonishing in diving still deeper in the mysteries of their noble calling. It is a notorious fact that the best educated are the most zealous and best practical farmers; this circumstance should stimulate the youth to cultivate the mind, by which means he would be better fitted for usefulness in life.