

secret of all improvement, and where the cost of production is not actually diminished in proportion to the expenditure, I would not consider it an improvement in agriculture. The skilful agriculturalist, who employs capital or labour judiciously in the cultivation of land, is sure to diminish the cost of production, or as I before observed, he will raise a quantity of produce from his land and labour that will not cost him near so much in proportion to quantity, as it will cost the farmer, in proportion to quantity, who raises the least produce. In the present circumstances of Canada, if we desire to maintain the credit of the country, and the high character we have attained, the improvement of agriculture is no longer a matter of choice or fancy, but a matter of comparative necessity. All the great things that have been done for us, and the fine things that have been said of us, will be of little avail, if we do not help ourselves, by making a good use of what has been done for the encouragement of agriculture, and thus proving that we are not unworthy of the high character we have attained with the world. We should endeavour to come up to the full standard of perfection in our system of agriculture, when we have abundant examples of a system that is very near perfection. I think I am perfectly justified in stating, that upon a well managed agricultural establishment, of which there are a great many to be seen in the British Isles. If not in Canada, the practical art of agriculture, in every department, including the management of land, the live stock, and the implements employed, are as well understood, and brought to as great perfection, as is the produce of any other art or manufacture practised in Britain. The improvements in agriculture are decidedly good, both as regards the increase of quantity, and the improvement of quality,—and this is more than can be said in relation to all other arts and manufactures. There is no manufacture practised by man that can compare with an agricultural manufactory that is well conducted, in the excellence and perfection of its productions. There is no deceit or deception in a fine animal, or in the productions of a well managed field or garden. I have never seen any of the products of manufacture brought to so great perfection, and so free from deterioration, as the products obtained from a perfect system of agriculture,—where the animals of every variety are of perfect form, and adaptation for their several uses,—and the products of the field, of the finest quality, without any deteriorating mixture. We cannot bring our oxen to the size of elephants, nor would it be advisable if we could do so,—nor can we bring the grain of wheat to be the size of a horse bean, and I believe it would not be an improvement if we did. Animals, and field productions are, however, brought to a high degree of excellence, if not to actual perfection, and if this can be accomplished by many agriculturists, I cannot see why it should not be possible to all,

who would employ the same means, with a favorable climate, and a naturally good soil. I mention these circumstances because agriculturists are often taunted as being behind this age of progress, in the improvement of their art. No doubt many farmers are very backward, indeed, in adopting the necessary improvements in their system of husbandry; but I am persuaded, nevertheless, that agriculture in numerous instances, has attained greater perfection than any other manufacture that we are acquainted with. This is an important point achieved, in favour of general improvement. And it is no wonder that agriculture should have been brought to this great perfection. In the British Isles, the best educated and the most wealthy of the community are engaged in agriculture, and connecting science with practice, work it out in the most judicious and successful manner; and thus, by their capital, experiments, and example, instruct and encourage tenant farmers to adopt improvements that are proved to be advantageous. This is a proof of the vast importance of education to agricultural improvement. Without any wish to give the slightest offence, I may submit that uneducated men certainly may be induced to adopt improvements which they can see practised successfully and profitably before them; but improvements in agriculture seldom originate with them, though they may work them out when they have a good example before them. Agriculture is a science that can be best explained by actual experiments in the field, and it would not have attained to anything approaching its present perfection in Britain, were it not for the lead taken by the wealthy and educated, by having these experiments judiciously made, both in the field, and in the management of their flocks and herds. It is from these circumstances only that agriculture, in all its branches, is brought to greater perfection in Britain than in any other country, so that it has become the admiration and example of all the civilized nations of the earth.

The subject of education has been fully discussed lately in the Legislative Assembly; but I was surprised to see no allusion to the necessity that agricultural instruction should be directly provided for in the system proposed. No wonder our youth should not estimate very highly the occupation of the agriculturist, or regard it as a respectable profession. He perceives from his childhood that education is highly prized, and considered actually necessary for the successful practice of any respectable profession, or even handicraft trade; but for the occupation of the farmer it does not appear to be an essential qualification, and he therefore despises such a profession, as only fitted for the most ignorant and illiterate. I have frequently endeavored to show the injurious effect on agriculture that the youth of the country, who do receive education, are more disposed to other professions than to be agriculturists. This I attribute partly to the

course of education they receive, wherein the science and practice of agriculture is never mentioned or alluded to, no more than if there was no such science to be learned; also, to the circumstance of witnessing in numerous instances the defective practice, and unfavorable and unprofitable results obtained from agriculture. All these causes operate unfavorably upon educated young men, and lead them to suppose that farming is only fit for the ignorant and laborious, or for the wealthy classes, who engage in it for the pleasures and amusements of a country life, and work the farm by hired laborers. It must appear strange that, although five-sixths of our population have to make their living by agriculture, there is no direct means provided for instructing them in the science and art of agriculture, except what they may learn from those who are not the most capable of instructing them. Every other profession and occupation has a suitable education provided, that has direct reference to their future pursuits, while agriculture is denied any similar advantage. Schools for the rural population should at least be furnished with standard and suitable books on the science and art of agriculture, and these books should form a part of the study of every male scholar. There are excellent Agricultural Catechisms, and other books on the subject might be selected which would be plain and easy to comprehend. At all events, such books would convince the scholars that there were means of teaching the science and art of agriculture as well as any other art or profession, and it might have the effect of giving many a taste for agriculture, and a desire to understand it thoroughly, which they are never likely to feel, if their education has no reference whatever to it. We should also have properly qualified persons to deliver practical lectures on the subject at all our colleges and schools. However agriculture may be despised and neglected, it is an occupation, above all others, which we cannot do without, and therefore it will be for the general benefit of the community that it should be understood and practiced in the most perfect manner that is possible; and if we are in earnest in our desires that our agriculture should improve and flourish, we must give it importance and respectability by a direct education for it at our schools and colleges. Of course the properly educated can duly appreciate the importance and respectability of agriculture, and do not require to be told that it is the most important and most honorable, because it is the most useful and necessary of any art or profession practised by mankind, and is more particularly dependent for successful results upon the goodness of the Creator,—after man has executed properly the part which falls to his lot to perform.

I have now endeavored to give a truthful picture of the present state of agriculture in Lower Canada, and offered suggestions for its amelioration. Many parties who take