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ROMAINE'S STEAM CULTIVATOR.

The *idea* of steam cultivation retains its hold of the English agricultural mind. In the Western States also, where some of the largest farms in the world are to be found, the desire to harness the steam horse to the plough is so strongly felt, that large rewards have been offered for the discovery of a practical method. We cannot say that the want of a steam cultivator has been much felt, or is likely to be for some time to come, in Canada. Our small farms, our stumpy, stony, knolly, and in many cases, hilly fields, seem better suited to animal than to elemental power—to the slow but obedient ox, to the active and easily managed horse, rather than the heavy, complicated, dangerous (in unskilled hands) and expensive steam locomotive,—even admitting that it can be made to cultivate the soil successfully under favourable conditions. As a stationary power for general purposes, steam is unquestionably superior to any other yet known. Water may be cheaper where it can be had in sufficient quantity, but it is not so managable in this climate, and being confined to those spots where it exists naturally, is unadapted to a variety of purposes. But steam has never yet been successfully applied as a strictly portable power, except in the two cases of steamboats and railroads. The immense weight of the engine itself offers, apparently, an insuperable objection to the use of the steam power in the field, where it is required to move with its work. Boydell's engine, with its movable track, is the most successful attempt yet made to overcome this difficulty. We hear of its achievements in transporting heavy ordnance over marshy ground, and it would, therefore, seem, as a matter of science and fact, that this engine has solved the problem. But, that it will or can be made to supersede animal power in the field, under the ever-varying conditions which must be there encountered; that it will be able to compete with such power on the score of economy, has not yet been proved. We doubt if it will ever succeed in the contest. If destined to triumph any where, it is evident that it will only be upon large and tolerably level farms, such as may be found in England and the Western States.