

COMMUNICATIONS.

For the British American Cultivator.

WHY HAS THE CAUSE OF AGRICULTURE BEEN SO MUCH NEGLECTED—FARMERS NEGLECT EDUCATION—AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS—SUPPORT THE CULTIVATOR—FARMERS SHOULD CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES—AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

MR. EDITOR,—

I am not one of those whose fortune it has been to become, by a course of practice, acquainted with the cultivation of the soil; yet I would be of that class who feel, and that deeply, interested in any cause involving the welfare of our "noble province." And who is there that has paid any attention to her interests—who has taken a survey of her prospects, as a country, but must know that the cause of her agriculturists is one of the utmost importance to all classes of her inhabitants? As Mr. Evans has remarked Agriculture is the sole dependence of nine-tenths of the Canadian population.

These things being so, is it not rather a matter of astonishment than otherwise, that no solid and persevering efforts have been made, to promote this great cause? Have not the lovers of Canada to regret that, amidst the attempts to improve laws—promote commerce—uphold the dignity of professions, none, for it is hardly too much to say none, have been made whose results shew a substantial benefit conferred upon our agriculture? Why is this so? Have there been no hearts which warmed in its defence—no spirit of intelligence which said to the statesman,—“if thou wouldst serve this Canadian people, promote, above almost every other interest, that of the cultivation of the soil.”

Perhaps one good answer is, that the farmers have not been true to themselves—they have been sleeping. Very few of them think of pursuing a course of reading calculated to enlighten their minds, and to teach them the best method of practising their noble art. They have been too much of the opinion, that a farmer could do well enough without the assistance of a well informed intellect. Had they been desirous of thoroughly educating their children, one generation, at least, might now have been raised up, who could take a liberal and intelligent view of the country, and see in what line their best interests lay. Our legislative halls have been filled for years; yet, need I ask, with those whose interest would lead them to look diligently, and whose abilities would enable them to do so effectually, after the cause of the husbandman? The farmers have sent the merchant, the lawyer, the doctor, and the gentleman to parliament, rather than the intelligent FARMER, one of themselves—and why? Chiefly because, by neglecting the great affair of educating their sons, whom they intended to be cultivators of the soil, they had few among them qualified for the responsible office of legislator. If one of a farmer's half dozen sons received any thing of an education, he was probably the very one that was sent abroad, to the merchant's shop, or to some profession. I would say then to the farmer, let the education of your children be one of the first considerations with you; and that, in my opinion, it is much more useful to expend your means in this way, than in acquiring farms to give them, which they cannot intelligently manage. Raise up a race, interested in promoting your especial welfare, and who will have the ability to advocate measures calculated to promote it. I do not pretend to say, that there is no desire on the part of the intelligent of other classes of the community, to befrend the cause of agriculture; but rather to support the idea that the intelligent farmer himself, will be most likely to persevere in his own cause,—the cause of his fellow-farmers. I would think a lawyer best able to look after his profession; a doctor, his; and a farmer, the interests of his own class.

Again, there has been no unity among the agriculturists, as a class—nothing to rouse a spirit of emulation among them. There has been no centre to which all could bend their way as a place of resort to meditate upon their interests, and discuss topics connected with them. There have been no master spirits to speak to the people, and if there were, no proper journal, or me-

dium in which they could so. What has aroused the farmers of the neighboring territories to a sense of their duty to themselves? And what has tended so much to elevate the British yeoman, in the father land? Is it not the circulation of facts gathered from observations of nature, and the discussion as to the best methods of cultivation? Science has been sent abroad among the people, and in what way more than through the agricultural journals, whose columns open to all, were the receptacle of knowledge, acquired by years of experience? An agricultural journal is in itself a simple lever, yet if managed with spirit, one most powerful, to promote the cause. I have seen with pleasure the attempt to establish such a journal in the province, and I do feel a desire to appeal to the people throughout the country in its behalf. I say to the farmers in particular, come forward with your subscriptions, and uphold our Canadian Cultivator. Patronage will enable the proprietor to improve the work, and will enliven the heart of Mr. Evans, its intelligent editor, to do his utmost.—When he finds that he can talk to thousands through his columns, he will, doubtless, feel a desire, as well as esteem it a duty, to devote considerable attention to the subject.

The farmers themselves, should, contribute largely to its columns. Every one has some peculiar ideas, or has collected more or less useful knowledge upon different branches of the art; let them forward these for publication. An idea prevails among many, that they cannot write for a paper,—but what is required but a simple statement of facts? Surely there will be little difficulty in putting the same together; at any rate make a trial, and if at first the matter needs a little brushing up, there is an editor, who will cheerfully do so.

The different Agricultural Societies throughout the province, might do very much towards forwarding the cause, not only by patronising the Cultivator, but by making known through its columns regularly, what steps they are taking in their vicinities. They would thus see what each other was about, and perhaps, a laudable spirit of emulation might be excited among them, and their members resulting in a large amount of good to the country.

I add no more at present than to say, I make these remarks, not in any spirit of confidence, but in remembrance of the fact, that he has little chance of serving his country, who would never make the attempt, through a fear of not being successful. Wm. O. BUELL.

Toronto, 15th Feb. 1842.

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator.

Sir,

I perceive on the eighteenth page of your valuable paper, an article designed for giving instructions, headed, "To prevent the girdling of trees by mice in winter," and as I fear the writer has failed to give the necessary information, I will relate an expedient to which I had recourse several years ago, and have never had it fail me.

When I first began to grow the St. Catharines' Nursery, my land was new, and many of the stumps of forest trees were so green and firmly rooted, I thought to avoid the expense of digging them up, and directed my fruit trees to be planted between them. The consequence was, that around all such stumps as would afford a production to mice, my trees were literally devoured. I soon perceived that I must either destroy the mice, or lose several hundred pounds already expended. But the way to effect their destruction was somewhat perplexing. I however discovered that no trees were injured except near a stump, old rank grown grass, or some other rubbish that gave shelter to their nests, and I told my nurseryman to have every such article entirely removed. I also had all the ground in the angles of the fence cultivated with potatoes. These measures were effectual.—They could not bear our cold winters without something to cover them, and I am quite of the opinion that there are no mice in Canada that can.

Yours respectfully,

C. BEADLE.

ST. CATHARINES' NURSERY,
Niagara District, Feb'y. 11th, 1842.

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator.

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity of informing you, that the annual general meeting of the Wellington District Agricultural Society, was held in this town, on Tuesday last, and was numerously and respectably attended by farmers and others.

The following is a list of the office bearers for the present year. Those marked thus * are re-elected:

*JOHN HOWITT, Esq., President.
*Thos. Saunders, Esq., *James Webster, Esq.,
*Mr. G. Armstrong, and Jacob S. Shoemaker, Esq., Vice Presidents.
*Mr. John Harland Secretary,
*Wm. Hewat, Esq., Treasurer.

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Mr. Andrew Hewat.	Mr. S. Broadfoot.
Mr. Jas. Wright.	Mr. McNaught.
Mr. Thos. Card.	Mr. Jos. Parkinson.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN HARLAND.

Guelph, 27th Jan. 1842.

Hardening Pork.

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator.

MR. EDITOR,

I observed in your last number an article selected from the Boston Cultivator, headed, "Apples for Stock," the object of which the writer had in view was to prove that pork can be made with less expense and of as good quality, on apples as on potatoes, meal, or corn. He states, "That hogs are now fattened exclusively on apples, boiled or baked." It is not my wish to contradict the statements of this writer, but it appears that he thought it prudent, a few days before killing his hog, to order him some corn feed, thinking he might increase the quality of the pork. Whether boiled apples will make actually as good and as firm pork as meal or corn, I cannot say from experience, as we grow more acorns and hickory nuts than apples in this part of our country; but it appears to me that they would make rather soft feed to make good solid pork.

I will now give the result of my own observation and experience. I recollect when I was a boy hearing the farmers talk about hardening their pork. It was quite common in the early settlements of the country for the hogs to get fat in the woods, upon nuts, &c., but previous to butchering them, it was a common practice to put them in the pen, and feed them on peas or corn for a short time, to harden the pork. Since I have been raising hogs, I have observed, that the pork is better and firmer some seasons than others. There was the last season an abundance of hickory, beech, and butter nuts; my hogs did not come home until Christmas, they were then fit for the knife; but wishing to make them still fatter, I put them in the pen, and fed them on good dry peas for five weeks, then butchered them. When I cut up the pork I observed about an inch and a half of good solid pork next the skin, particularly along the back, the remainder was soft and oily, and of an inferior description; and you might tell to a hair's breadth, where the pea fed pork commenced.—I have observed before, the same thing, under similar circumstances, so I am convinced from my own observation, that if we fatten our hogs on nuts, swill, still-slops, or any kind of soft food, we need not expect to harden any more of it with peas or corn, than we can make.

LEVI WALLSON.

TRAFALGAR, NEW SUREY,
February 15th, 1842.

THE GIANT WHITE CARROT.—From a crop of this vegetable, grown at Fairfield, in Illinois, there were taken up as many as grew in six feet by three feet, one-eighteenth of a acre of ground which weighed with the tops, 36½ lbs. Sinking the ½ for any dirt that might remain about the roots, there would be 46 tons 5 cwt. per acre. —West Briton.