



INTRODUCTION.

In all countries, and under all circumstances, the principles that underlie the art of husbandry are identical, but the practice through which they are brought to bear upon the cultivation of the soil must necessarily vary, owing to the modifications that are indispensable to bring that practice into harmony with surrounding circumstances.

Hence, while the scientific or theoretical literature of agriculture is of universal application, and may with success be imported, that relating to the practice of the farm should, to be of substantial use, be a home, and not a foreign production.

The present condition of Canadian agriculture demands the increase, if not indeed the introduction, of such a literature, and it is gratifying to find that this want has a fair prospect of being supplied by the publication of such works as that which follows this introductory notice. In it the author has kept steadily in view the fundamental principles of true husbandry, and has, in harmony with them, endeavoured to sketch an agricultural practice in no way antagonistic to the modifying influences peculiar to the country.

This harmony is indispensable to successful farming, and unless it be established, no matter how suitable to a country a system of husbandry may otherwise be, it must inevitably fail to be successful. It may, under exceptional circumstances, appear for a time to be successful, but permanent it cannot be.

The system of cropping introduced by the early settlers of Canada affords a striking illustration of this fact; for a time it appeared to be everything that could be desired, but, owing to the fact that it was opposed to the fundamental principles of true