

On the Agriculture of Canada.

crops above mentioned may be most successfully employed—or as to the method in which they can be consumed with the greatest advantage to the farmer. This is a part of the subject which in Canada, involves more points for consideration than in any other part of the British dominions. The farmer has in this colony, to contend with difficulties which do not exist in other places. The long winters of Canada have been held up as a valid reason for not introducing a regular system of agriculture, founded upon those well established facts which have been received and operated upon in other countries.—This is a fallacious argument and to exhibit its defects it is only necessary to observe that the winters in Canada are every year lessening in severity and duration, and as the country proceeds to be cleared, it is not beyond the verge of probability to expect that the time will come when Canada will have nothing in its rigorous winter to appal the agriculturalist more than England has at the present day. This is no vague assertion—nor is it founded upon a hypothetical basis, journals of the weather and statements of the degrees of temperature have been kept in Canada for twenty-five years past, and from these it can be clearly demonstrated that the mean degree of cold of the winter has not been so great at the termination of the above period by 10 degrees as it was at the commencement* of it. If this be the case—and if it be taken into consideration that if we have in this country a decreasing degree of cold in our winters, and at the same time are blessed with a temperature in our summers sufficient to bring to maturity some of the most valuable productions of the agriculturalist, surely there is no valid reason for deferring improvements in this highly important science on the score of our inhabiting a clime or soil where such improvements are impracticable. But it is not from this idea alone that the aversion to amend our system of Canadian husbandry has arisen. In the improved age in which we live Agriculture has become a business of national consideration, it is placed under Legislative regulations—see the corn laws of England—witness her acts as well as our own for regulating the inspection of beef and pork for exportation—observe the salt duties imposed by Parliament which are so modified as to encourage the curing and packing of these commodities for a foreign market. The protection of the farmer being then the object of the Parliaments in every country in which a Parliament exists; the question is how far they have acted upon this principle in Canada. How has our Legislature in their wisdom provided for the protection of our farming interest? But this is a subject Mr. Editor, you will not readily enter upon, in your Magazine, for there you have very properly excluded “all religious and political matters.”—I therefore gladly return to my subject; a consideration of the value of the crops I have recommended here for cultivation, or a few remarks upon the method in which they can be employed to the best advantage.

In the outset of this part of the subject there is one maxim now so well established among the best farmers that it ought never to be violated, and no consideration ought to induce agriculturalists to deviate from it; namely, that *whatever is raised on the farm as food for cattle*

* The writer here alludes to Montreal and its vicinity.