

THE

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TO OUR READERS.

In commencing a new, and, we trust, an improved Series of the *Agriculturist*, a few words explanatory of the principal objects of the work will be deemed as desirable by our subscribers as ourselves.

The designation, "*Agriculturist*," sufficiently denotes the general character which the work is meant to sustain. Agriculture, both scientific and practical, will occupy at least a moiety of its pages. Its conductors will endeavour to place before their readers whatever discoveries or improvements may be made, either in Europe or America, in relation to this confessedly most important and useful of the arts. As the great bulk of our farmers are either directly from the British Islands, or the descendants of those who were, they will no doubt regard with peculiar interest a monthly digest of Agricultural information from our Father-land, obtained from authentic sources—public journals, reports and private correspondence. Nor shall we remain unmindful of the progress our American neighbours are making in this and kindred arts; but shall cull from their various periodicals, whatever promises to interest and instruct our readers. Beside, we expect to receive occasionally from that and other quarters, original communications from the pens of distinguished agriculturists.

The word "*Canadian*"—thus giving to our work the name "*Canadian Agriculturist*"—at once expresses our desire that the work should assume a distinct and national character. We shall, therefore, not only treat of the general principles of agriculture, which are equally applicable to all countries and climates, and place before our readers discoveries and improved methods of practice, come from whom and where they may; but we shall aim especially to do everything in our power for the agricultural advancement of our own country.—Canada and Canadian interests, so far as they are comprised within the legitimate and professed objects of our paper, shall have our first consideration. In aiming to do this, we earnestly invite and reckon on the co-operation and communications of our far-

mers, and all others who feel an interest in promoting the agricultural and general prosperity of our naturally favored land. We feel quite confident that this country possesses the requisite elements of national greatness, and that one of the principal means, if not *the means*, for accomplishing that patriotic object, is the development of her immense agricultural resources. Unless we mistake entirely the signs and temper of the times, Canada is assuming a new and improved position; the present depression will prove but temporary, and a bright and encouraging future awaits the skilful and persevering industry of our population.

Feeling as we do an interest in the well being and prosperity of every portion of our wide-spread Empire:—in the diffusion of useful knowledge and the inestimable blessings of civil and religious liberty, guaranteed by British Institutions;—we cannot but regard with the strongest feelings of interest and attachment that particular portion of the Earth's surface on which we have resolved as the land of our adoption. From the peculiar position of the Mother Country—possessing at the same instant a redundancy both of capital and labour, Emigration it would seem must continue to proceed in an increasing ratio. Canada contains an ample field for the profitable employment of both: and we shall consider it our duty to lend our humble aid to so desirable and important an object. The condition and capabilities of this country—particularly Western Canada—are, we know, but very imperfectly understood at Home; whilst the most active means have been and are still employed by interested and influential parties for setting forth the advantages real and supposed, of the southern and more distant colonies. As our periodical will have a circulation in the Mother Country, we shall always be glad to answer any enquiries that may be sent us from thence, free of expense; and we invite our Canadian correspondents to furnish us with authenticated facts and suggestions in reference to this important subject.

In the mechanical department we shall study to make our readers acquainted with such new inven-