

older settlements; shall not some provision be made for those new districts now rapidly filling up to keep them from the "*beginning of strife*," either to provide for the rectifying or to perpetuate the error? The loss is much less now than it will be 20 years hence, and much moral evil would be avoided.

It is not for me to bring forward projects; more law, more leisure, and, I hope, more patriotic spirit are to be found in your Board, who have taken on themselves the superintendence of our agricultural affairs; and I feel assured that such is the weight of this case, that it has only to be brought forward to elicit their utmost exertions in behalf of an agricultural community, which is proving the most persevering and enterprising in America, and perhaps the most industrious and hardworking in the world.

The *present moment* is the time; difficulties must increase at every step onward, and who but the Lawyers can look with anything but regret on the long vista of litigation that is opening to absorb the returns, strained from the bone and sinews of our laboring farmers; a fund which, were it to revert at once to the improvement of the land, would enrich our country and contribute to the contentment and comfort of the class who earned it.

Yours, Respectfully,

ROBERT HUME.

Tyne Dale, Port Hope, }
June 1st, 1853. }

The evils complained of by our correspondent are multifarious, and their correction is no doubt a matter of grave importance. The Board of Agriculture will do well to entertain the question; but an efficient action relative thereto must, of course, rest with the legislature. We trust the matter will not be lost sight of.—EDITOR.

HIGH ENGLISH FARMING.

To the Editor of the Canadian Agriculturist.

SIR,—Having just returned from England, and being struck more than ever with the difference between the appearance of farms and farming stock in this country and that favoured island, I am induced to think that a short description of a farm, such as it ought to be, would not be unacceptable to those of your readers who have never had an opportunity of seeing what may be called real high farming. The farm I allude to, and which is well worth a visit from any one whose avocations may take them that way, is the estate of Sir John Conroy, near Reading. Not the least striking of its peculiarities is that it possesses not one single fence, save the one that separates it from its neighbours, the whole of the farm being comprised in one huge field of 270 acres, all the intervening hedges, of which there were originally many, were taken down by the present owner when he came to farming some seven years ago, the land was drained 4 feet deep, at distances varying from 15 to 30 feet according to the nature of the ground, and trenched with the

spade, still retaining the top spit uppermost to the depth of 22 inches, at a total cost of some £5000. A few blocks of the subsoil containing some three or four cubic feet in each, are piled up at the farm yard gate as a sort of trophy, and hard enough it must have been to win, for they are of the substance commonly called plum-pudding stone, and of such was the subsoil chiefly composed. Even now in some places the soil is little else but gravel, and from such a soil by dint of skill and industry, excellent crops have been gathered. The removal of fences has opened out the visitor at one view, all the different sorts of soil of which the farm is composed; here you see a little bit of quicksand, there peers out a black patch of peat, but principally gravel meets the eye. On one piece close to the rickyard, nine inches of clay was laid two years ago, but the gravel has already begun to show through. To convince the most sceptical of the necessity of draining, there is what Sir John calls the bigots hole, viz., a brick pit about four feet square, and as many deep, which is placed at the junction of two main drains leading from a considerable portion, some 40 acres of the *driest* land, and where water is seen running in the driest weather.

The Ducie cultivator is I believe, the principal implement used on the farm, but the iron ploughs of Howard and Ransome, and the old Kentish, turnwrest plough, have plenty to do, the latter implement especially; the steward Mr. Hlathaway informed me, being capable of executing any work required of a plough, from skimming the surface at three inches, down to subsoiling at 18, in a most admirable manner from the simplicity of its make being difficult to injure, and easily repaired by unskilled hands. As to the working part of the homestead, a most beautiful steam engine of ten horse power, made by the celebrated firm of Barrett, Exall & Andrews, of Reading, drives a thrashing machine of complete contrivance with the necessary appurtenances of two winnowing machines, barley hummeller, &c., so arranged that the sheaf is put in its proper place and the grain comes out at the other perfectly fit for market, and most beautifully clean. By means of a long line of shafting with belts attached, the engine drives also a cake crusher turnip cutter, chaff cutter, grain bruiser, and every thing required for preparing food for stock. A nice stable is close at hand, with a passage at the head for feeding the horses quickly, and their food is composed of eight pounds of hay and ten pound of straw cut into chaff, 5 lb. of oats, 1 lb. of beammeal, moistened with 1 lb. of bruised linseed, steeped 48 hours in 15 pints of cold water, which quantity lasts them for 24 hours, and very nice it smells I can assure you.

Next to the stable is the implement house containing Garrett's drills and horse-hoe implements, which I believe no well conducted farm is without. The oxen are kept in boxes about 12 feet square, three rows of boxes under one shed and one or two under another, the manure being removed from under them when it has accumulated to a certain height. They are also fed upon a mixture of the same sort as the horses, but not quite so stimulating, without the oats I believe, and with plenty of turnips and oilcake. They