

Provinces there may be a vast disproportion between the sums expended upon, and the benefits conferred by them. The principle is good, altho' the system adopted to carry the principle into operation may be defective in some of its bearings. We confess our admiration of the aristocracy of learning, and we venerate the *Alma Mater*, which is venerable not only for antiquity in our mother country, but for the numerous examples of cultivated minds, which colleges have produced, and which have enlightened and adorned successive ages since the establishment of such institutions in Great Britain; nor are our Provinces, comparing small things with great, without some evidence of their usefulness. The acquirement of knowledge is not confined to chartered edifices; these may be favoured paths to the temple of science, but there are other roads which lead to it; and we should not consider a proposition in favour of the diffusion of knowledge wandering and visionary, merely because it is characterised by novelty. The time was, when the project to propel a ship against adverse winds and tides by the power of steam, was considered as the waking dream of a fanciful enthusiast—the time is, when distances are reduced, and land and water traversed with increased comfort and almost incredible celerity by steam. And the time will be, when the present greatness of this mighty agent will acquire still greater perfection. But to return from this digression. We have already observed that there is a prevailing apathy among our farmers respecting *book-knowledge*. We speak generally, for there are a few worthy exceptions; visit the country and ask for an agricultural book, or magazine, or paper; and you will meet with them "*Few and far between*." The trouble of obtaining them, and the greater trouble of reading them after the toils of the day, with the prejudices of the farmer in favour of his own experience, all conspire to impede the progress of agriculture, and the intro-

duction of those improvements, which science and experience unitedly have effected in other countries. But many who are indifferent about reading, are very willing to hear, and we verily believe that the great object of all agricultural associations would be secured, and this best interest of the Province advanced, by the appointment of some competent individual as an *Agricultural Lecturer*, under the direction of the Legislature. It should be the duty of such a person to visit in succession every county throughout the Province, and to give a familiar and popular course of agricultural lectures in each. Such a course should comprehend the most important and useful discoveries of agricultural chemistry, and the most approved practices of husbandry applicable to our climate and circumstances. It would have a decided advantage over printed information, in as much as instruction would be accompanied with explanations, not only during the lecture, but subsequently and conversationally in reply to questions respecting it. Many men would travel a few miles to hear a lecture, who would scarcely cross a room to read an agricultural paper. Curiosity, and gossip, and the love of congregating, which are universally demonstrated throughout both Provinces, would exercise in this instance a beneficial influence in bringing men together.—Such lectures, given always before the agricultural societies throughout the Province, would have a tendency to increase the numbers, strength and usefulness of such associations, and bring before the agricultural public in regularly printed records much useful information, which under the present state of such matters, is either lost or very limited in its influence. It should be the duty of such a lecturer to submit an annual report, to the Legislature, of the places he had visited; the number of lectures he had given, and the number of persons who attended them, with all other information upon the subject and within his observation.