

system of education now in vogue is doing much to promote it, and doubtless year after year the good results produced by it, will tell upon the agricultural prosperity of the Province, but I would like to have taught in our schools some work that would give the youths of the country a knowledge of agriculture, and to a certain extent qualify them for the work in store for them on leaving school. There is no class more needed in the Province than well educated farmers. I have no sympathy with the North River farmer, who, on the introduction of the school law, thought he was going to be ruined by an annual school-tax of 50 cents, and only eleven children to send to school.

It is a great mistake to suppose that farmers do not need to be educated. Progress is sure in this direction, as in all others, but it seems slow. The farmer without an education sinks to a mere drudge, and can never hope to attain an equal position in society with other professions; and he may boast as he will, but he cannot make his soil produce like the intelligent, well bred man, who studies agriculture as a science.

The uneducated farmer wonders why his sons and daughters are so anxious to leave the farm, to choose other occupations. The reason, my friends, is obvious; for young men cannot plod on with those who persist in keeping them a century behind the times. Young men and women of all trades and professions, are perfecting themselves in their various callings, attending scientific lectures, reading scientific books, studying improvements in every department of labor; and mark their progress in respectability, usefulness, and work.

To the intelligent gentleman, the farm holds out far more delightful inducements than any trade. He enters the profession with a desire and determination to elevate it, and he succeeds, too, just in proportion to his general culture. Opportunities for agricultural training are opening over the whole country, and parents would do well to place in the hands of their sons scientific books and papers, if they wish them to remain on the farm.

Your children would soon look with altered eyes upon the farm life; and what a different aspect would many a farm-house wear! Throw about your children all those helps and encouragements to service—so reasonable, so delightful, so profitable—if you would have your farms blossom like the rose, and your homes and hearts bask in the sunshine of prosperity.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, Prof. Agassiz participated in a discussion on the subject of agricultural education. I think he takes a very sensible view of the subject. It will certainly be endorsed by every thoughtful and intelligent hearer. I make the following extract from his remarks:—

I think the time has come when we should make it known to the community how in this age—which is an age in which all education is changing, in which scholastic and monastic education is vanishing, in which even literary education is waning, to make room for practical, for more active, for more scientific instruction,—I say I think the time has come when we should make it known to the community how they are to move in that direction.

I hold that even our practical school education, admirable as it is, tends too much to book learning—just as much too much as our

colleges do. The cry against book learning in the colleges is already loud enough, but it should now reach the common schools also, because there is a great deal of study of things that might be introduced there. If the children of all the common schools could be taught to recognise and know by sight all the stones upon which they tread, if they could be taught to know by sight all the plants and animals which are to be found in their neighbourhood, they would come better prepared to your agricultural school than they do, and they would be equally better prepared to come to our scientific school in Cambridge, or to go anywhere. The foundation would be laid of a better preparation for the practical training which our age demands.

I think that agricultural colleges will have somewhat the effect to lead in that direction, and we should, I think, from all sides, press upon the community the need of learning in the direction in which the wants of the active community go, not merely in the direction in which an antiquated practice has led thus far. I would not lessen in anyway the value of scholarly culture. I would not disgrace my mother—and letters have been my mother, I would not disgrace culture in ancient lore even, impractical as it is, but I think in the methods by which these things are taught there are savings to be made in time, which could be applied to things far more useful.

It is gratifying for us to know that a tidal wave of agriculture has set in upon the adjoining Republic, it will no doubt soon strike our shores. In its course I hope it will sweep out of existence all our erroneous notions of farming, and give us ideas in keeping with the great change that is taking place in the subject in more intelligent communities. The improvement going on among us in this matter is slow, but it is sure. If our public Journalists were alive to the duties of their position or the requirements of the age, the agricultural status of Nova Scotia would improve far more rapidly than it does, and instead of the farmers of the coming generation being left to labour hap-hazard without any guiding star to direct their efforts in the right direction, there would soon be established for their instruction schools of agriculture and agricultural colleges which are among the bulwarks of other lands, and their introduction into this Province would inaugurate an era that would speedily brighten up the whole face of the country with the prospect of a happy future.

I regret that my friend Alley does not run his paper more on an agricultural lay, and that he does not lend the genial rays of his SUN more to developing the fertilizers that are lying dormant in this fine agricultural county. While there are a few merchants, lawyers, shoemakers and hotel-keepers in Truro, the vast majority of the people of Colchester are farmers, yet the editor of our only newspaper conducts it in a manner that leads me to think his soul is not in sympathy with the farming interest. I have often wondered how a country editor can expect to keep his head above water and his paper above ground, without furnishing the proper kind of mental food to his readers, adapted to the life and calling of the mass of the people he calls his patrons.

What is it that has made the name of Horace Greeley in the United States "a tower of strength" and has brought him prominently before the public as a candidate for the Presidency? Is it not, unquestionably

above all other considerations the fact that during a long life in the editorial chair, he has devoted his best energies in studying and writing to elevate the standing of the American farmer, and has always devoted a large portion of his great paper to instructive articles on agriculture. For these reasons we are led instinctively to respect a man, many of us have never seen, and whose agricultural writings and labours alone, entitle him to a prominent place among the benefactors of the age.

Horace Greeley, however, is not only famous as an editor friendly to agricultural pursuits, but also as a tiller of the soil. A recent writer says, "that to the staunch old farmer fed on the Tribune from childhood, the letters H. G. stand for a white-headed philosopher who pulls his own turnips and milks his own cows, and who can tell more about farming than anybody else. It is in his character of Agriculturist that the name of the author of "What I know about Farming" has become a household word in every land where the English tongue prevails."

When our public men lend their influence to get such a modification of our school system as will make the training in our schools better adapted to farmers' sons than that of the schools now sanctioned by law; and when our journalists commence to do for the agricultural advancement of Nova Scotia, what Horace Greeley has grown old in doing for that of America, we may look for the farming operations in the Province being conducted in a more scientific manner than heretofore, and systematic farming becoming better understood than it is now.

(To be Continued.)

FARMING IN CAPE BRETON.

We find the following letter in the *Toronto Globe*. We are sorry to see it stated that the Colorado Bug has reached Sydney. But nevertheless we have reason to believe that he has not yet been seen within a thousand miles of Cape Breton:—

We are just now endeavouring to repair the damage done by the fearful storm of Sunday evening last—fences levelled, trees uprooted, barns and houses unroofed and demolished. No such storm has been seen for many years, if ever; but I suppose more detailed accounts will have reached you ere you receive this. Upon the whole, our crops are good, with the exception of fall wheat, which winter killed. It is not safe to sow much of this grain unless well sheltered, and the precaution of top-dressing with straw, &c., is taken. Farmers, hereabouts, are sowing more rye, not for the grain alone but the straw, which is in good demand, and commands a high price from the paper makers.

The Colorado potato bug has made its appearance here this season, but not in great numbers. The latter rain has benefitted potatoes greatly, the tops of which are still quite green, late varieties. I hope the subject of tree-planting for fuel and otherwise will receive attention, and