



THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature improve."—*Dr. Johnson*

Toronto, December, 1842.

As we anticipated, the new Tariff of Sir Robert Peel, has already brought much foreign live cattle into the English markets from almost every state in Europe, and caused a fall in the price of cattle in the British Isles of about twenty-five per cent. This fall will have a serious influence on the interests of British agriculture, and it is not impossible but the depreciation in the value of cattle may be greater still, when the nations of Europe find that they have a certain market for cattle, that will give them higher prices than they were able to obtain heretofore. It will encourage them to raise and feed cattle while a remunerating price can be had for them. The new Tariff admits foreign cattle on the payment of a duty, that will not, on an average, amount to much over ten per cent. on their value, and this low duty will not afford sufficient encouragement to British American farmers, to raise beef and pork for the English market. Our climate is more severe than that of most of the countries of Europe, and our situation much more remote from the English markets. The tariff allows us some advantage over foreigners, but not to a sufficient extent. At no distant period England will discover, that to give decided encouragement to her own colonies, will be her wisest policy.—Foreign nations will always be governed in their regulations of trade by self-interest, and as they generally attribute the prosperity and riches of England to her manufacturing industry, they will be anxious to encourage their own manufactures and thus increase the home customers for their raw produce. England possesses capital, machinery, and skill to manufacture for all the world, if she could only induce them to be her customers, but that would be impossible. Jealousy and peculiar circumstances will always prevent this, and therefore, there must of necessity, be a limit to the extent of manufactures in Britain. The colonies of Britain will, if fostered and encouraged judiciously, be her best and surest customers; and as she has colonies in every region of the earth, they can also supply her, in a few years, with all she may require of foreign produce. If a free trade system could be established all over the world between all nations, we should not object to it; but as that probably never will be the case, we object to free trade in agricultural produce, unless it equally applies to all other productions.

The present prospects in Britain, may not hold out so much encouragement to us to raise and feed cattle as we would wish, but matters may turn out better than we anticipate, and it will therefore be prudent, by all means, to augment our stock of cattle, in order that we may avail ourselves of any favourable opportunity that may occur, to sell salted meat in the English market. Cattle are as likely to pay well as any other produce we can raise for sale, and a farm stocked with cattle, does not require so large an expenditure for labour, as one under arable culture.—We should endeavour to improve our breeds of

cattle, sheep, and swine judiciously, and have such a stock of each as would be most suitable for our climate and means of feeding. That east, of any species, that will yield the farmer the largest returns for the capital employed and the food consumed, will be the best and most profitable to keep. It is profit and not show, that should govern the farmer in selecting breeds of animals, and in improving breeds of animals by maturity is a great perfection—and short-legged animals generally possess this quality, and are easily fattened. Moderate sized cattle, we have always thought the most suitable and profitable in Canada. Whatever may be the size, a good form is, however, actually necessary, to insure a profitable stock. We must also improve our pastures and keep for stock. If we had the very best breeds of cattle that are to be found, they would soon degenerate and become worthless, unless well kept both in summer and winter. With good pastures and winter keep, inferior breeds of cattle may be improved, but without these most essential requisites, it is in vain to introduce improved breeds with any expectation of profit, or of keeping the breeds from rapidly degenerating. Let us improve the cultivation of our farms, and our meadows, and pastures, and the improvement of our cattle and sheep will be certain to follow. It should be the principal object with all our Agricultural Societies, to encourage the improvement of the soil first—to introduce the best models of useful agricultural implements—and to circulate practical instruction amongst the agricultural classes. If Agricultural Societies were to do all this, they would effect more profitable improvement in one year, than they can in twenty by only giving premiums upon stock. Large sized improved stock would be starved on nine-tenths of the farms of Canada East, in their present state of cultivation and production. An improved cultivation of the soil—more perfect drainage—and the careful extirpation of hurtful weeds—are the most desirable and necessary improvement for us to introduce. Those who generally obtain premiums on stock, are farmers who require no encouragement to induce them to practice the best system of agriculture. Indeed it is only such farmers who can have any pretensions to be successful competitors for cattle at cattle shows, and all others feel themselves virtually excluded. We beg to submit some of the Rules and General Conditions that were established by the County of Montreal Agricultural Society. They may offer some useful suggestions to other societies. We would strongly recommend premiums for well managed farms, and we would also recommend the appointment of parish committees for superintending the progress of improvement, and as the means of communication between county or district societies, and every parish and section of the Province. If we are to derive any general benefit from Agricultural Societies, and the expenditure by them of public funds, we should adopt the most likely means to produce benefit. It may be said that the plan we suggest would give too much trouble to county societies. We are firmly persuaded however, that the general good that would be produced by our plan (and it was our own originally)—would amply compensate for the trouble. We should not take upon us to act in the capacity of managing committees of Agricultural Societies, if not determined to do all in our power to promote the objects for which such societies are instituted, and obtain public money to expend. If such societies are not useful they are not necessary. It is by encouraging

improvement, where it is most required, they can produce the greatest amount of benefit to the community. To do this, we humbly conceive, should be the governing principle of all Agricultural Societies, and where it is not so, very little good will be produced. We have the very best precedents for our example, the Royal English Agricultural Society, and the many hundred other societies in the British Isles. All these societies give their principal attention to the improvement of the soil, implements, the destruction of vermin, and the general interests of agriculture.

[The Rules and General Conditions of the County of Montreal Agricultural Society, referred to in the foregoing article, is unavoidably crowded out until our next].

We have arrived at the last month of the year, and it may be profitable for us to reflect upon the various occurrences that have taken place during that period. Doubtless, to many, the year that is now nearly expired, has produced both joys and sorrows in a greater or less degree. For the occurrences of a pleasing nature we should be grateful, and it is equally our duty to submit with patience and resignation to afflictions, which, we may be assured, were brought upon us for our good. If we have proper ideas of the beneficence of our Creator, we must be satisfied that He never inflicts suffering upon His creatures unnecessarily. All the dispensations of His Providence, must be for some wise and good purpose. The thoughts of our Creator are not man's thoughts. The Ruler of the universe is so infinitely superior to any idea that man can form of Him, that we never can rightly comprehend His dispensations towards us, while in this state of existence. It is only when we "shuffled off this mortal coil," and become pure disembodied spirits, that we shall be able to comprehend the Deity, and His wise and good government of the universe. While we are in the flesh, therefore, we should submit with perfect resignation and full confidence, that all the dispensations of God towards us are wise, just, and good.—We should make a distinction between the afflictions brought upon us by our own direct acts, and those that appear Providential. The first can be traced directly to our own conduct, and are the results of our own acts, and it would be unjust to consider them as the dispensations of Providence. Afflictions that result directly from our own conduct, we fear, are the most numerous and severe that humanity are subject to in this life. Indeed they are the punishments that naturally follow our own transgressions. It is well for us that it is thus, because it may produce our repentance and reformation, before death removes us from this state of probation. The more we reflect upon the laws and government of God, we shall more clearly perceive that all His laws, for the government of man, were calculated to produce his happiness even in this life. It was only with this view that laws were made for us, and that a sense of what was right and wrong was stamped upon our own minds, to be a constant and faithful monitor to us. Any act of ours in this life cannot benefit our Creator, but we owe implicit obedience to His laws, which He has given us for our own happiness, and that of the human family; and to reward our obedience, His bounty has promised us eternal happiness in Heaven.