

quantity of it, and by the plan he can mix his manure with the soil at the depth, proper for the state of his grounds or the nature of the crop he lays down. There are many lands in the older settlements in Canada, where a slight stratum on the surface has been so long under crop after crop without rest or manure that they are now completely exhausted. By a well constructed plow, a part of the under soil could be turned up and mixed with this stratum; which might tend in some soils to renovate it.—It is by the proper application of the plow that the farmer is enabled to overcome the too great tenacity of some soils and render them friable and productive. It is in the operation of plowing that the ridges or lands can be formed of a width suitable to the nature of the soil and description of crop, so as to ensure the best return. Since therefore the business of husbandry depends so much upon the operation of plowing; it ought to claim the first attention, and in fact it has done so in every country to which the most improved systems of Agriculture have been extended; how far this is the case in Canada, will appear from the following remarks.

The plow in general use in Lower-Canada is of a very antiquated construction; and perhaps it may be thought unnecessary to say any thing farther unfavourable of it, than to mention the fact that it has been long since rejected in those countries where agriculture has reached any degree of improvement. But although the form and make of the plough may be of considerable importance to the farmer, this is not all he has to attend to. In the hands of an expert ploughman as good work will sometimes be done, upon certain soils; by a plow of an elderly fashion, as when one of the most modern form is employed. There are other objects, no less meriting consideration in selecting his plow. The farmer in this point must reflect upon the first cost of the article, the fitness of it for the soil he farms, and lastly the quantity of work which can be performed by it at the least possible expense. The present plow used in Lower-Canada is constructed of wood, which is not perhaps an objection as to its first cost when the cheapness of that material in this country is taken into consideration. It consists of a long beam supported by an axle-tree and two wheels, and is regulated by an iron pin and chain with regard to the width of furrow and the depth of soil which is to be taken. Here the complicated nature of it renders it objectionable as it is more apt to get deranged and out of repair, thereby overballancing the cheapness of it at the first cost. This plow is drawn by four oxen to which two horses are frequently added. One man is required in working it to steady the machine, and two are often necessary to drive this unwieldy team. The oxen draw by the horns, and are secured by straps of untanned leather to wooden bars which are fixed across poles prolonged from the beam of the plow. With this cumbersome apparatus the labour performed is from one to two arpents per day: and that upon soils where the same work could be done in an equal time with a common swing plow and a pair of horses with one man. It is unnecessary to enter into a minute calculation to show the increased expense attending this plan. Here is the first cost of two pairs of oxen, their food, the wages and food of one sometimes two additional men, all of which