

# THE FARMER AND MECHANIC.

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## To our Readers.

In presenting the first number of the *Farmer & Mechanic* to the Canadian public, we shall, in as concise a manner as possible, explain the leading features of our magazine, and the results which we hope in some measure to be instrumental in obtaining. Agriculture and the mechanical branches are the only sources of profitable employment in which the great bulk of our population can hope to sustain an honorable position in society, and therefore the press should devote more attention in aiding to develop the various branches of industry with which these noble and useful professions are capable of being improved. All classes of the community have of late become convinced of the utility of periodicals like our own, and many are willing to acknowledge that they have individually derived a greater degree of benefit, in their respective callings, from this source, than could have been procured, at a much greater expense, from books, or any other mode of intellectual improvement. The good that has been conferred to a few, through the medium of the Agricultural and Mechanical periodicals, is proposed by the publisher of this journal, to be placed within the reach of the many; and the means by which it is hoped this great result will be accomplished, are, first, the exceedingly cheap rate at which it is published, and secondly, the plain, practical style in which the various subjects appropriate to its columns will be discussed by the editor, thus enabling all who can read to understand correctly the principles and influences that govern the everyday operations of life.

There is an old but trite saying that "no man should write upon a subject on which he is not well informed," and, acting upon that maxim, the publisher has, at a considerable expense, secured the services of an editor who has all his life devoted his time and means to the acquisition of both a practical and scientific acquaintance with agriculture and those mechanical branches that are closely connected with the profitable management of the farm. By the aid of numerous contributors, and the selections made from the agricultural press, together with his own experience and everyday practice on the farm, the editor flatters himself that he will be able to compile a monthly sheet, which, in point of practical utility and general interest, will favorably compare with any publication of the kind extant. In issuing the first number of our magazine we do not intend to be lavish in fair promises of what we shall aim at accomplishing, but nevertheless, it may not be thought egotistical to state a few of the leading features of our work, which, for convenience sake, shall be divided under different heads, first,

### PRACTICAL AGRICULTURE.

All subjects under this department of the work will be discussed under their appropriate heads in a style that will be plain and practical, and especially adapted to the soil and climate of the country, and the circumstances of its population. In suggesting improvements, great care will be taken in recommending none but such as will, in their results, prove of use to the parties who carry them out in practice. The only true standard of computing the value of new modes of culture, the introduction of improved implements of husbandry, and the improvements generally in the various branches of mechanical arts, is that of comparing the value of the products with the cost of production, either in labor or