

THE  
**CANADIAN MAGAZINE,**  
AND  
**LITERARY REPOSITORY.**

No. XX.

FEBRUARY, 1825.

VOL. IV.

(For the Canadian Magazine.)

ON CANADIAN AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Editor,

In one of my former letters to you I pointed out the injurious consequences which have arisen from the general predilection of Canadian Farmers for raising wheat; at the same time I noticed that some of the most blameable parts in their system of agriculture arose from their carrying this predilection to too great an extent. The late war which raised the price of grain to an unnatural degree was the cause of their directing so much of their attention to it; but as that is now passed, and as the circumstances which gave origin and prosperity to this plan have now ceased: it ought no longer to be persisted in. The shop-keeper would be considered as acting very foolishly, were he to lay in a large stock of any article for which there was no sale; and there is nothing to exempt the farmer from the same imputation when he persists in rearing an article which does not bear a price in the market sufficient to remunerate him for his labours.

Of all the various duties of the practical Agriculturist, there is none deserving more close attention; none requiring more sound discrimination than the adaptation of his farm to that particular branch of husbandry, for which it is by soil and situation best calculated. This principle, from all that we can learn owes its origin to the more modern improvements in the farmer's business. The ancients appear to have paid but little attention to it; indeed among them at one period the pastoral life they led as necessarily followed by every man, converting his farm to the purpose of grazing; where, as in other countries their grounds were probably applied to the raising of grain, wine,