

high destiny of these immense regions, under the benignant sway of the British sceptre,—where thousands after thousands of our indigent countrymen, may, for untold ages, continue to come, and partake largely of the necessary comforts and chief blessings of life. In a pursuit of such primordial importance as that of agriculture, forming the very basis of a nation's existence and independence, and daily prosecuted under circumstances the most favourable to health of body and purity of mind; how inspiring and humanising the thought; what a cheering light does it shed on the frequently dark and rugged pathways of life, that our bountiful mother earth, yields up her exhaustless treasures to honest and intelligent industry, equally regardless of race or creed.

The report, after dwelling at some length on the capabilities of Lower Canada, and candidly pointing out the defects both in existing practices of agriculture and the management of societies, proceeds to suggest the means for their improvement. Several of these, it will be seen, are precisely those which we have frequently urged in this journal; some of which are about being carried into practical effect, in Upper Canada, by the formation of a board of agriculture, and the establishment of an agricultural professorship and experimental farm by the Provincial University. The following extracts from the report, will afford the reader a general idea of the principal remedial measures recommended;—

“Your Committee now come to agricultural schools and model farms. It is impossible, without enormous expense, to establish special agricultural schools accompanied by model farms on a large scale. From calculations, the correctness of which is not in the least doubted by your Committee, it appears that each of these model farms would cost not less than £3,500, and they would perhaps be attended only by a few pupils belonging to a class, which, by its position, is the least in want of instruction; it is therefore in the institutions now frequented by our youth that the means must be found of establishing such schools. Your Committee have great pleasure in citing, among other authorities, in support of their opinion, the weighty one of Mr. Johnston, expressed by him in his report of the exploration made by him in New Brunswick.

Happily such institutions exist in Lower Canada, and can compare with more favoured countries; happily we have a class of men in these institutions who can perform great things with little means, who having bid an eternal farewell to all worldly enjoyments except that of doing good, are neither under the necessity nor in a position to require salaries, but devote their whole life to the education of youth, asking in return only food and raiment.

Your Committee therefore suggest, that a spe-

cial and annual grant be allowed to each of the Colleges of St. Hyacinthe, L'Assomption, Nicolet and St. Anne, on condition that a Chair of Agriculture be established for the instruction of their scholars, and that a portion of land, in the immediate vicinity of each institution, be cultivated as a model farm. Your Committee have not consulted the directors of these different institutions, but do not entertain the slightest doubt as to their inclination, and do not fear to guarantee their good will on this subject. A similar grant might be made for the same purpose in the townships, at one of the Academies where a portion of the youth who speak the English tongue receive their education. Thus with less expense than the establishment of one single separate institution would entail, and with a hundred fold the chances of success, the country would be in possession of five institutions in which the whole of its youth could obtain a knowledge of the noble art of agriculture—a knowledge which hundreds of young men would every year bring into practice on their own account, or impart to their compatriots throughout the country. Your Committee are so fully convinced of the importance of this arrangement, that they fearlessly express their conviction, that this plan alone is destined to advance the progress of agriculture in Lower Canada more fully than it is physically possible to do by any other means. Your Committee, in recommending a certain number of Colleges and one Academy only, have no intention of depreciating the others, but in doing so have only been influenced by the small amount of means which they have to rely upon. The next means of spreading education, a means which your Committee cannot too much recommend, is the publication of an elementary treatise on practical agriculture, to be printed in pamphlet form and distributed gratuitously to all the schools and in the family of every agriculturist.

Your Committee further suggest that the annual grant allowed to the Lower Canada Agricultural Society be increased and continued to them, on condition that they shall still publish the Agricultural Journal in French and English, and endeavour to increase their library, and keep, as they now do, a seed depot.

Your Committee are of opinion that the appointment of two Superintendents of Agriculture, one for the Districts of Montreal, St. Francis, and the Ottawa; and the other for the Districts of Quebec, Gaspé and Kamouraska, is absolutely necessary. The Superintendent will form the managing part of the system, and together with the Professors of Agriculture in the Colleges, will constitute the teaching body. His duties, as your Committee conceive, would be to make annual tours of inspection in the Districts within his jurisdiction; to publish an annual report, containing as complete a description as possible of the different sorts of soil, their means of improvement; pointing out the defects in their cultivation, and showing the means of remedying these defects; in a word, this report would be the