

## THE CULTIVATOR.

SINCE we issued the Circular for the "Farmer and Mechanic," a circumstance has occurred, which has caused us to change the title of that Periodical. The public, undoubtedly, require an explanation, which we freely give.

In the latter part of July last, we resolved to issue, from our Office, in January, 1842, a Monthly Periodical devoted exclusively to the interests of the agricultural population of the British Provinces in North America, to be entitled the BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR, and to be similar in size and appearance to the one since published at Kingston.

We were at Kingston at the time when the former proprietors of the Farmer and Mechanic, issued their second prospectus. We told them, as they had not published their paper in accordance with their original agreement, we had come to the conclusion to publish one at Toronto; but, as they had their second prospectus before the public, we would exert no opposition to theirs, but do all in our power to further their interests, by recommending our friend to take their publication; at the same time pointing out to them the difficulties they would have to encounter, being both strangers and neither having any stake in the country: the principal proprietor or editor, being an alien, would be sufficient in itself to prejudice the public against their periodical. Notwithstanding our advice, the first number of their paper was issued in August last—we were much pleased with its appearance and recommended it to the notice of upwards of One Hundred persons, a considerable number of whom were gentlemen of the first standing in our country. We, likewise, procured many subscribers, who paid their money in advance; and also wrote a number of letters to friends in different parts of the country, soliciting their interest for the Farmer and Mechanic, showing forth the advantages to be derived from such a publication, were it efficiently supported in these Provinces.

The Editor, through some cause unknown to us, made his exit from Kingston, a short time after the second number was issued, leaving his bills, &c. unsettled. He was publishing another Paper, in Syracuse, before the third number of the Farmer and Mechanic was printed.

The other proprietor came immediately to Toronto and proposed to sell us his interest in the publication. An agreement was effected, and the Subscription-List, Exchange Papers, and Correspondence were all forwarded according to agreement; but the back numbers were delayed until after our circulars were published and circulated. Instead of their being between five and six hundred copies of the three first numbers, as was stated, there were only one hundred of the first number, and only, 450 of the 2nd, and 3rd numbers; but little value could be attached to them, unless they were set up again and an additional quantity struck off. The names on the list which we received amounted to 520, 144 of which are marked Paid; we engaged to forward those their numbers, until the period their subscription expires, and risk the chance of obtaining the subscription money from those not marked Paid. We have since found numbers of instances where Subscribers have paid their money in advance, and no credit been given them on the book, and many of such had not received a single copy of the paper until it came into our hands. We make the alteration in our Title Page for our own security, and to sustain the credit of our publication. Those on their list marked Paid will receive monthly the other copies due them, and the others will have received their three copies free of charge, with the postage paid, unless

they have been so unfortunate as to have paid their money and received no credit.—We hope the latter class are but few, and in order to free the public mind from suspense on this discreditable subject, we will mark Paid on each first number we send the former class, so that each may know whether any credit has been given them or not.—Those that have been deceived in the former publication, must not be discouraged; (although we have been deceived) yet we will endeavour to earn a character for our paper, which will be both creditable to the Conductors and Supporters.

## Petition.

We Copy elsewhere, a Petition to the Queen, for a free admission of Colonial produce in the British Markets, adopted by the Agricultural Committee of the Home District, and would urge the propriety of the public cordially co-operating in soliciting this grant. In advocating the general interests and welfare of the Agricultural classes in British America, we shall endeavour always to have a due respect for those of another character. If this petition should be fully granted, we do not consider that it would materially derange the Commercial or Mercantile interests of these Provinces, on the contrary it is our opinion, that in a few years, they would experience an adequate share of the benefits expected to accrue from such an arrangement. It would be the means of bringing annually a large amount of Capitalists into the country, and would stimulate our Yeomen and Backwoodsmen to renewed exertion; and would without doubt, soon give that stimulus for Agriculture which these Provinces have so long merited. Those who are opposed to protecting duties, argue that it would ruin the immense carrying trade of the St. Lawrence. We believe these apprehensions to be ill-founded. The surplus produce of the "far west," has to find a market for consumption out of the United States, three years out of four, and the one which would be most stable, would unquestionably be preferred by the western Merchant. It would be more to his advantage, to pay a stipulated duty to the Colonial Government, and have his articles brought at once into market; than to be liable to the bonded warehouse restrictions, under which they would probably not be admitted for a number of months.

We hope the subject will be introduced at the different Township meetings, which take place on the first Monday in the "new year," and will meet with a general concurrence.

## Hemp.

The Culture of Hemp as an article for export, deserves our serious consideration.

We are not strangers to the fact, that this subject has been under discussion from the earliest settlements of our country down to the present period, that inducements have been held forth to the public, by the Executive, amply sufficient to warrant the adoption of its culture, had public opinion been enlightened or aroused to the importance of the undertaking. We would not wish it to be understood, that the culture of this article should interfere with a well organized system of farming; or that it should be introduced in those sections of the country where Wheat can be grown with success or profit. The Hessian fly have made such ravages upon the wheat crops for the last few years in the Eastern part of the Province, that in many districts the farmers have not secured their seed. Mr. Evans, of Cote St. Paul, whose opinion on this subject should be respected, and whose name connected with the Agricultural History of British America, should be revered by every Colonist, has advised the habitants, and inhabitants of those townships where the influence of this insect has been most destructive, to abandon alto-

gether the cultivation of wheat, for a few years. It being formerly their staple crop, and its successful cultivation being impracticable, their situation will be calamitous unless some other crops be cultivated to give them employment and sustenance. Some plan must therefore be adopted, and the one we would propose, is the cultivation of Hemp.

Great Britain would much rather purchase the raw material from Her Colonies in exchange for the produce of Her manufactures, than send one million of dollars and upwards, annually to the Baltic, to purchase the same material. It is held to be a good paying crop in those districts in England where it is yet raised.—The produce per acre, is estimated to be worth from £20 to £25 per acre, if the land be of the proper quality. The high price of Manual labour would probably curtail a large proportion of the profits. Much of its management could be performed by the weaker members of the family, and the dressing and preparing for market could be done in the winter season, in suitable houses erected for the purpose.

The columns of the Cultivator will be open for Communications on this important subject.

## Advertisements.

The only class of advertisements that will be inserted in the columns of the Cultivator, are those of improved breeds of live Stock, Farming Implements of a superior character, choice varieties of Seeds, select Fruit Trees &c. Only one insertion will be given, and that in a condensed form. As we do not intend to make any charges for such advertisements, none will have claims but subscribers.

## Correspondents.

NEWMARKET, Dec'r. 14, 1841.

To the Editor of the British American Cultivator

Dear Sir,

I am happy to learn by the Circular, which you were kind enough to send me, that you have an intention of publishing an Agricultural Journal; and thus supplying a most important void in Canadian literature and intelligence. As this intention is an earnest of useful enterprise, and desire to be serviceable to a much neglected and important branch of Canadian industry—scientific agriculture—permit me to say, that I sincerely hope a generous public will duly appreciate your efforts, and cause them to redound to your own advantage.

The duty of a public journalist is at all times arduous, and more especially so is his whose pathway is in a great measure untrodden, and whose investigations are at once designed to supply intellectual food, moral dignity, and pecuniary advantage for a class of readers, for whom I regret to state, science has as yet done little, but whose interest, all true lovers of their country, are ardently desirous of seeing promoted.

In short I am of opinion, that in order to promote good government in this Province, it must be accomplished by extending the education of the agricultural classes, far beyond what has ever yet been contemplated—as they form the mass of our community, and then intelligent exercise of their franchise, can alone shed permanent light over government and legislation. Unlike the privileged and professional classes, they can never have an interest in wrong; while they form the broadest basis for freedom to rest upon, and the surest check on pernicious encroachments. On these accounts I trust that your columns will be ever open to the admission of well written essays on all subjects connected with agricultural education.

Perhaps it may appear to some impracticable, yet it is my candid opinion that natural and