



"THE EARTH BEING MAN'S INHERITANCE, IT BEHOVES HIM TO CULTIVATE IT PROPERLY."

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### THE FARMER'S MANUAL,

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## THE FARMER'S MANUAL.

In presenting this our first number to the public, we would beg to address a few words to the Farmers,—a class of men whose occupations cannot be too highly estimated, and for whose benefit these pages are particularly intended.

It has been said by Doctor Johnson, that "Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation but the only riches it can call its own." Without contending for the literal correctness of this statement, we yet believe that Agriculture is a most important branch of industry, and that where its interests are not made a paramount object of political economy, no country can become very wealthy or independent.

The soil is an inexhaustible source of wealth,—the great storehouse whence the necessities of our nature are supplied. It possesses in itself a continually reproductive principle, which labor and cultivation increases rather than diminishes, and it is this which renders Agriculture important to individuals as well as to the country at large.

Our farmers seem hitherto never to have regarded this business in its true light, as forming the only basis on which our Provincial prosperity can safely rest; but rather as a merely subordinate employment, as scarcely more than an alternative against want, a sort of *dernier resort* for persons incapable of succeeding in other pursuits.

The practical evil of these impressions may be seen by looking over the face of the Province: in the country, in discontented farmers, and farms neglected and going to waste; in the town, in professions filled to repletion, and in merchants without credit or customers;—a large proportion of both having left the country for what they deemed more lucrative and honorable pursuits, in which however they have been in perhaps a majority of instances, most wofully disappointed; and many of them now instead of being of much use to themselves or of any to the country, hang as a dead weight upon the productive energy of the Province, producing nothing themselves and drawing their subsistence from the labor of others.

Look also at the influence of the Farmers in the Government of the country—In the House of Assembly and the Legislative and Executive Councils. Is it anything like what it should be? Does it not plainly shew that they have suffered themselves to fall far behind their neighbours, and have tacitly assented to the political insignificance of their employments.

This error, like most others, has been the means of perpetuating itself. When any occupation ceases to be considered important the more ambitious and enterprising are deterred from engaging in it—talent is looked upon as thrown away when confined to objects but little regarded, and intelligence is rarely acquired where there exists an opinion that it will be of little or no use. Thus the elevating, influences of mental improvement have had hardly any connection with our agricultural pursuits. How often have we seen a farmer expend large sums of money to qualify one of his sons to become an indifferent lawyer or doctor, to the neglect of his other children, who have scarcely been taught to read and write—as if the circumstance of their being intended for the farm should preclude them from the rational and delightful pleasures that arise from a well cultivated mind; as well as from that respectability which generally attends it.