

THE BRITISH AMERICAN



CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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No. 1.

At the commencement of the New Year, we beg to offer our congratulations to our Subscribers, and to assure them of our most sincere wishes that health, happiness, and prosperity may be enjoyed by them in full measure and running over, throughout the present, and very many succeeding years. It is impossible for us to know what the present year shall bring forth to each of us, but of this we may be assured, that if each of us endeavour to do our duty properly, we may confidently rely upon the Almighty Ruler of the universe, that all events that shall happen to us will be for the better, and shall lead to produce our happiness, either in this life or the next, and perhaps, to a certain extent, in both. With good intentions, upright conduct, and humble reliance on the goodness of God, we may dare to expect as many blessings in the year now commencing, as we have obtained in any former one, and more than this it might be unreasonable for us to expect, in our present state of existence and trial.

In this our first Number for the year 1843, we beg leave to appeal to our agricultural friends and solicit their support. During the past year our exertions as editor, may not have given perfect satisfaction to our Subscribers, and for this we might offer a reasonable excuse, but we forbear, and hope that in future we shall be more successful. It is our earnest desire, by our humble efforts, to conduce to the improvement and prosperity of agriculture, and our Subscribers may be assured that our efforts shall be unceasing. It may not be in our power to effect so much good as would be expected from us, and our manner of attempting it may not be approved of; but these are objections which we fear we cannot well remedy. One thing we are certain would assist us and greatly increase our confidence, and that is—the unanimous support

of agriculturists, and of all who are friends to agriculture. We certainly cannot entertain a very flattering opinion of our exertions to promote the object we profess to have in view, if this Periodical is not considered worth the small charge of *Five Shillings* annually to a farmer, or the friend of farmers. During the past year, we thought it necessary to occupy considerable space in advocating agricultural protection, because we deemed it useless to produce largely, and well, if a market could not be had for this produce at moderate, but remunerating prices. It may be expedient to continue to agitate on this subject, that is of so much consequence to the vast majority of the Canadian community. It is right, we presume, that our Representatives, if they are ignorant of our wants and wishes, should be made perfectly acquainted with what they are, and it will be for agriculturists to judge hereafter what attention they will have given to their affairs. We do not ask for, or expect any thing that is unreasonable, neither shall we be satisfied if our interests are not decidedly provided for by those who represent the agricultural class. Other classes of this community will discover, we believe, that they cannot be permanently prosperous, while agriculture is in a depressed and unprosperous state. We are firmly persuaded, that protected and encouraged as agriculture ought to be, in a country circumstanced as this is, it might be in a prosperous condition. Let measures be adopted to protect, encourage, and instruct, and if it fails to produce prosperity in our agriculture, we shall then admit we have been in error with regard to the capabilities of the country, but not until all that is necessary and expedient is first tried and has failed. In England, the first of agricultural countries, they are now adopting every possible means of instruction and encouragement to effect the improvement of agriculture. Here, on the contrary, where instruction and improve-

ment is so much required, agriculture is left altogether to itself, to advance or retrograde as it may happen. In the forthcoming Session of the Provincial Parliament, we hope the subject will, at last, receive some consideration. If it is found upon a full investigation of its present state, that it would not be expedient to adopt any measures in reference to it, we must only submit, and wait with patience for a coming period that we may have in our power to make more favourable for us. We recommend this matter to the most serious attention of our Subscribers who, we suppose, are all agriculturists, or the friends and supporters of agriculture.

COUNTRIES.—Dr. Walsh has thus described two of the less common harbingers of cholera, and fire-damp, those ministers of death, whose approach is frequently as insidious as it is destructive:—"At one time, an odour of the most fragrant kind is diffused through the mine, resembling scent of the sweetest flowers; and while the miner is inhaling the balmy gale, he is suddenly struck down and expires in the midst of his fancied enjoyment; at another, it comes in the form of a globe of fire enclosed in a filmy case; and while he is gazing on the bright and beautiful object floating along, and is tempted to take it in his hand, it suddenly explodes, and destroys him and his companions in an instant."

History of Fossil Fuel.

IMPROVEMENT IN MAKING CANDLES.—The editor of an exchange paper says, that by making the wicks of candles about half the common size, and then wetting them with spirits of turpentine and then drying them again in the sunshine before moulding or dipping, they will last longer and make clearer light than when made in the ordinary way.

No. 1. is continued is rich indeed.