

laws and principles on which it must depend are known, and the mind (governed by right knowledge of causes and effects,) be brought into action enlightened but unfettered by previous practice, the time is now come when very different returns for the labor must be realised on the generality of soils, to leave the cultivators any profit, and the expenditure, too, must be lessened—not by a reduced scale of wages, but by the general use of improved machines and implements. One of the great misfortunes attending the study of agriculture has been, that the varied knowledge its improved practice calls for, is either not understood, or far too lowly rated; and indeed, it can be fully appreciated only by those who are engaged in the pursuit with proper education and views. You may make a mechanist, an engineer, an architect, a surgeon, or an accountant, by an education limited to the immediate knowledge to which either looks. An engineer need not know surgery—nor a surgeon the principles of building—nor an accountant mechanics; but unless a farmer be so educated that he may select the best implements, estimate rightly the utility of machinery, arrange his buildings, lay out his improvements, doctor his cattle, and keep his accounts, so as not only to tell him each year's gain or loss, but also to separate the result of each pursuit, he cannot be expected to farm with the advantages that should accompany his large outlay of capital, and the distant and varied returns that attend it. The pursuit of agriculture is, therefore, one in which the man of science finds much to interest him; but it is always taken up by such too eagerly, and too generally attended with unfavorable results—not because his scientific views are wrong, but from the fact that whilst farming may receive important aids from each, success depends on the well carrying out of every branch, and with a care and an economy that is bestowed only by the master's presence and discretion.

No pursuit has such a variety of interest, nor can any business or profession vie with it in happiness and independence. The farmer has every day some fresh incident, some new progress to observe—the advance of his crops, the condition of his stock, and the results of his experiments—and his life is passed in the midst of all that should make it enjoyable; its attractions are felt by the highest, and it is a following that never degrades. No profession or occupation in these respects can compare with it, and without affording large profits, it begins by giving much that large profits and years of labor are devoted to end with. *Hewitt Davis, Spring Park, Croydon.* [Extracted from a letter of advice to a father who had consulted the writer as to a pursuit for a son.]

CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

Although this subject has been prominently brought before the Canadian husbandmen, through the medium of the

British American Cultivator, still it has not had the effect of producing the results as was anticipated by its editor. All that was said in favor of the flax crop may be fully realised by every skilful cultivator; and it appears really strange that so little interest should be evinced in relation to a crop which is so well adapted to the soil and climate of this country, and which is calculated to enrich both the producer and the nation. It is useless to further urge the flax crop upon the attention of the farmers of Canada, because they appear to have neither the will or ability to introduce those changes in their system of managing their soil which would secure to them a profitable system of husbandry. Honorable exceptions, however, may be made to this broad assertion: and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when no cultivator will be satisfied with a net profit of one or two pounds per acre from his land, after all expenses are paid, when, by expending a little extra capital and skill, a net profit of from ten to fifteen pounds per acre might be realised as certainly as the small profit mentioned. There are a number of crops that would pay very heavy profits if only a considerable amount of skill were expended in this production, which have as yet received little or no attention from the farmers of this country. In the catalogue of those neglected crops may be found the one which may be seen at the head of this article; this by no means, should stand at the head of the list, but as it is wisely calculated to be generally cultivated upon a pretty extensive scale, it may be interesting to some of the readers of this journal that these remarks should embody some practical facts by which an opinion could be formed of the profits of the crop.