

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL, AND TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

## Lower Canada Agricultural Society.

VOL. 5.

MONTREAL, NOVEMBER, 1850.

NO. 11.

How very desirable it would be that the rural population of Lower Canada should bestir themselves, and endeavour to realize the numerous advantages which their situation and circumstances have placed at their disposal. We have frequently attempted to enumerate these advantages, and the more we see of this and other countries, we become more firmly persuaded that we have never over estimated Lower Canada as compared with other countries. The rural population with us, we believe, are not so generally educated, as the farming classes of neighbouring countries, but this defect is in our own power to remedy. In introducing any changes of our systems of education for the rural population, it is to be hoped that due provision will be made to give this education an agricultural character that will be suitable for, and useful to the youth to whom it is imparted. Above all other considerations this is necessary, if we desire to attach the educated sons of farmers to the profession of their fathers. If this is not attended to, the children of farmers that obtain education according to the present system of schools, are very likely to fancy any profession rather than that of an agriculturist. Agriculture has never been done justice to in Canada by the systems of education that are got up for the children of agriculturists. Nothing can be more calculated to estrange the mind of a youth from the pursuit of agriculture than the teaching he receives at school. His reading and teaching, from beginning to end, is of every subject but agricul-

ture, although his parents, perhaps, intended him for a farmer. He naturally concludes that farming cannot be a suitable employment for a man of education, or it would require some education to fit him for such an occupation, he is, therefore, disposed on leaving school to despise the occupation of his father, and to apply himself to some other business. Farmers perceiving this propensity in their children, are not so anxious to have them properly educated and we condemn farmers for their disinclination, we humbly conceive, very unjustly. We object not to a good education for the children of the rural population, on the contrary, let it be as good as possible, but let the science and art of agriculture be a part of the education. If youth will, after such instruction, go to other professions, and prefer them, there can be no sound objection offered, however such a choice may be regretted. The sons of farmers would thus have a fair chance of practising their profession with advantage and being duly educated for it would not have any disinclination to it, or disrespect for it. It is time we should come to some just conclusion on this matter, and provide for the agricultural classes, the same advantages of instruction in their profession, that are provided for other classes, in their several professions.

---

Large minds, like large pictures, are seen best at a distance. This is the reason, to say nothing of envious motives, why we generally undervalue our contemporaries, and over-rate the ancients.