AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS.

The business of farming in this country, we are sorry to say, is too much a matter of uncertainty; and if a farmer obtains a good crop, or realizes a favourable result in any of the operations of his farm, in nine cases out of ten, the cause producing the effect, is seldom made a subject of investigation; hence the necessity of experiment — the business of which is to test the truth of theory—and thereby come at certain conclusions. Every farmer, who tries useful experiments in agriculture, for the public good, deserves the gratitude of the whole country, and should be looked up to as a public benefactor. We are anxious to have the agriculture of Canada made respectable —as we are satisfied that the farmer and mechanic are creators of the materials from which the merchants derive most of their wealth: and the mechanic, what is he, if the farmer refuses his aid? Then from this inference, the profession of the farmer, is the base upon which all others rest. Now to make agriculture respectable, those who are engaged in it as a business must respect it; and in order that it should be respected by all who are directly engaged in it, as well as by all other classes, it will be absolutely necessary to make it a certain and profitable business. The only way to do this, is to introduce an improved system of agriculture, adapted to the peculiar circumstances of the country; and as those circumstances in certain soils and locality vary, the great lever of improvement, experiment, will have to be judiciously introduced. The only way for to successfully introduce experiments, will be to have a correct knowledge of the laws of nature, which govern vegetation. And we know of no way by which this information can be obtained, but by reading and studiously observing every passing incident of note, which is calculated to practically develope the mysteries of those laws.

To make ourselves understood on this point, we would beg to give the following synopsis of a series of experiments, which we made a few years since with a field of wheat:—The field in question was all of the same elevation, and the same kind of soil, and had been for thirty years previous treated with precisely the same management:—it received during the summer-fallowing operation, as it regards the quantity of manure applied per acre—the number of ploughings and the quality of seed sown, a uniform management. Notwithstanding all this uniformity, when the crop was harvested, the results were thus;—No. 1, produced 34 bushels per acre of a superior sample; No. 2 and 3, 24 bushels of a middling do., and, No. 4, 16 bushels of a very inferior sample. The two extremes were managed thus:—The seed for No. 1, was sown in ribs or rows, 14 inches apart; and that for No. 4, was ploughed in and left rough—which plan is highly recommended by many. It is not possible that any man of common sense would attribute this great difference to a mere matter of chance. As our opinions on this subject were given in the July number of volume 1, it will be unnecessary to repeat them; but we take this favourable opportunity of recommending the Canadian farmers, to give every detail of their respectable calling a thorough investigation; and, if it be found upon mature consideration, that the plan which they have heretofore practised, is not the most conducive to their prosperity, the sooner they adopt a better, the sooner will they have less occasion to complain of pecuniary embarrassments.

Experiments based on sound principles, are considered by us of such vast importance, *especially in a country like this, where* agriculture is yet in it its "swadling clothes;" that if we were about sowing a field with grain of any description—or intending to plant it with potatoes, or sow it with roots, we would, unquestionably, test the most approved systems of management, unless we had done so previously. This course we highly recommend to our subscribers: and we know of no method more conducive for causing men to think and reason on facts, than the one recommended above.

Every branch of industry except agriculture *is liable to be over done*; and when this happens distress is the inevitable consequence. This country is at present groaning under the effects of an unwarranted amount of imported goods being in it; and for which all the real and ficticious capital in the province would scarcely pay, including the surplus agricultural produce in the bargain. If the merchants who imported so largely during the last year, had been respectable producing farmers, they would have been a service to their country; but now they have placed the country in a predicamen*t*, which will require years of prudent management to even recover the ground which it has lost. Three years ago commercial classes were living by their profits, now we fear too many are obliged to live without profits—and even sink the little which they amassed during prosperous times. As bad as the times are for farmers, we hear it sounded in our ears daily from mercantile men, that they envy the healthful and profitable occupation of the farmer. They say although the cultivator of the soil *may not be able to amass a fortune at once*, yet he is sure of all the comforts of life, and his profits, though small, are certain. We trust our farmers will ponder on these things seriously; and through the few hints above, much profit may be gleaned, if they only act in the spirit which governs the age in which they live.

Bees wax.—The neatest way says the *Farmer's Cabinet*, to separate bees wax from the comb, is to tie it up in a linen or woollen cloth or bag, with a pebble or two to keep it from floating; place it in a kettle of cold water which hang over the fire; as the water heats, the wax melts and rises to the surface, while all the impurities remain in the bag.

Meadows.—There is no need of a surer index, to point out the residence of poor farmers, than to see cattle traveling over meadow grounds, during the month of March when the ground is sufficiently soft to allow them to sink, shoot-deep, at every step; thereby, burying many roots so deep as to destroy them, and at the same time, rendering the surface so uneven, as to impede the operation of mowing; and also occasioning a less crop, by compelling the mower to cut the grass higher from the ground, than would be necessary, if the surface was smooth.

Most farmers who allow their cattle to tread up their meadows thus, in the spring, excuse themselves, by saying "that their last year's crop of hay was light, and their cattle can find something about the fences which they will fill themselves." We very much doubt, whether the gain in this matter is equal to the loss, but is a sure way of continuing short crops.

There is not a month in the year, in which there should be more attention to stock, than March, and none when it is more important to keep cattle under cover.—*True Genesee Farmer.*

Surface-Water. — Passing across a wheat field, a few days since, we could but notice the carless manner in which it was left, at the time of sowing, with regard to surface-water. The field was what would be called level, and the soil which was alluvial, contained so much clay, as to render it impervious to the water. This field, like most others in new countries, had not been worked sufficiently to produce an even surface, and the depressions were filled with water. We examined the wheat in these hollows, and found that where the water was deep enough to cover all the leaves, the plants were dead, but where the leaves were above the water, only a few of the plants were entirely destroyed; but all appeared; to be more or less injured.

Had the farmer, at the time of sowing, ploughed his field in narrow lands, and left the centre furrows open, we doubt not, but his crop would have been one-quarter better than it will be, as it has been managed.

Where the surface-soil rests upon course sand and gravel, with an uneven surface, there is little danger to be apprehended from surface-water; but on the contrary, where sub-soil contains a large portion of clay, forming what is denominated "hard-pan," with an even surface, great care should be taken to keep open proper channels for carrying off any superfluous water. —*Ib.*

Ask the price.—Whenever I want any thing I always ask the price of it, whether it be a new coat, or a shoulder of mutton, a pound of tea, or a penny worth of pack string. If it appears to be worth the money, I buy it, that is if I can afford it; but if not I let it alone, for he is no wise man who pays for a thing more than it is worth.

But not only in the comforts of food and clothing, but in all things, I ask the same question; for there is a price fixed to a day's enjoyment, as well as to an article of dress: to the pleasures of life as well as to a joint of butcher's meat. Old Humphrey has now lived some summers and winters in the the world, and it would be odd indeed if he had passed through them all without picking up a little wisdom from his experience. —Now, if you will adopt my plan, you will reap much advantage; but if you will not, you will pay too dearly for the things you obtain.