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Omniium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturæ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

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AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

To the Editor Journal of Agriculture :

DEAR SIR,—The subject of agricultural education, in a practical and systematic form, is at present attracting considerable attention from those interested in the advancement of our farming interests, and from educationists in different sections of our Province. This is a step in the right direction, and, if the very tough problem of how to float a scheme for the extension of a higher agricultural collegiate education can be solved by having the subject thoroughly ventilated through the public press, a service will be rendered the country that will be without a parallel in the educational annals of Nova Scotia, within the last decade.

A few months ago the subject was agitated by a progressive educationist, in one of our local papers, and occasioned an amount of comment and discussion from various quarters. But this, like all previous attempts in the same direction, was unfruitful of the good results which were so earnestly advocated, and which were so heartily encored by a large number of men interested in this connection. It is a matter of regret that the opportunity of striking the iron while it was hot was not availed of and means taken for the establishing of a college for the purpose of improving the ideas and adding to the scientific knowledge of that class of our people who deserve much more in the way of education in the particular pursuit that occupies their attention, than any other class of our people. The solid

advantage, both national and individual, that would accrue from such a course can scarcely be estimated by the most zealous enthusiast. It is sufficient to study the progress of agricultural colleges in America, and to look closely into the results that have been so honestly achieved by those who have made themselves of the opportunities afforded by these colleges of procuring a thorough training in those branches that are sought to be inculcated in the students mind, to enable one to be satisfied of the importance and necessity of having similar institutions wherever the science of farming can be counted among the leading industries of a country. The results have in all cases been so satisfactory and the consummation of those plans, which was so ardently looked for by the promoters of these enterprises, been so completely realized, that it is a matter of surprise that the people of our province have not awakened from the lethargy in which they have been encompassed for so many years, and followed in the foot steps of those other States that have been so largely benefitted by the founding of such institutions within their limits. The necessity of such a college is manifest on every hand. Let any one at all conversant with scientific agriculture who desires to become personally convinced of the truthfulness of the above, take the surest way to make their convictions a certainty, by taking a trip to any section of our province and making it a special point to examine closely into the ways and means of the farming inhabitants of that district, and I think they would no

longer hesitate to take the affirmative side on an argument concerning the necessity of having an agricultural college in Nova Scotia. In the present days of progress "knowledge is power" in farming as well as in every other industry, and the man that best understands his business both theoretically and practically, will be the one to take a front seat in the particular department in which he may be engaged.

In view of these things, it behooves our farmers to seriously consider whether it would not be decidedly to their advantage to advance the interests of this all important question by doing all within their power to endeavor to bring about those results that are so anxiously looked for by all interested parties. The historic reasons "why" we ought to keep pace with other countries in the acceptance of the more enlightened ways and means of bringing about an improvement in the condition of our agricultural population, are so obvious and reasonable as not to necessitate special enumeration, for every one knows that our province, as a whole, is alarmingly behind in improved farming methods of those other countries and States that have had the veil of ancient bigotry lifted from their eyes, and embraced with an enterprising spirit all the latest improvements in agricultural education that have been so numerous invented within the last quarter of a century. When we take into consideration that upwards of 150,000 of our inhabitants are engaged in farming pursuits, the importance of the subject becomes at once apparent, not only to the