

her this prediction prove true or not, it is obvious that it stands every prudent farmer and to prepare for the worst. It is a much judicious course for a stock breeder to feed a sparing hand in the early part of winter, to largely exhaust the supplies at the commencement of the season, and then be obliged in the winter is only about half over to feed a sparing hand, and probably before the reach of spring jeopardise the life of the calves, by scantily supplying them with even coarsest quality of fodder. It is quite impossible to submit a code of rules to practical farmers, that would admit of an universal adoption; but it may be fairly said, that both the quality of the manure would be improved, and the fodder, whether it be of the coarsest or finest quality, would go much farther, and be much more beneficial to the stock if they were provided with warm and comfortable winter quarters, and the fodder chopped with one of the modern improved machines in use for that purpose. Although there have been great impositions made on the Canadian farmers, by the sale of an inferior article of straw-cutters, still it does not follow that good and durable machines cannot be had. Machines of an unexceptionable quality we had in Toronto, at a reasonable price, and will cut four times as fast as the old-fashioned machine; and those farmers who have stock in winter, would doubtless find great advantage from their use.

To the Readers of the Cultivator.

In the sixth annual volume of the *British American Cultivator* is now nearly brought to a close, we embrace the opportunity of explaining a few particulars which may not be found uninteresting to that portion of our readers, at least, who lent us their support and influence from the first number, through ardent endeavors in improving the character of Canadian Agriculture. The progress of a very important nature will shortly be effected in the style and character of our publication, and therefore we conceive it just to our mutual purposes, that we should explain to them the nature of those contemplated changes, and the motive which brought them about.

The fact is doubtless recollected by many, that the summer of 1841, the *Canadian Farmer & Mechanic*, was published in the City of Kingston, after a short career died, as the *Genesee*

Farmer announced it "for want of proper care and nourishment." Being a practical farmer ourselves, and having a large stake invested in that pursuit, and besides being placed in a situation where we had frequent intercourse in the then Capital of Canada, with the leading and most popular men of all parties, we unfortunately identified ourselves with the paper already alluded to, and were instrumental in getting them a very large list of subscribers. A short time after our return to Toronto, and pretty soon after the first Session of the late Lord Sydenham's Parliament, the editor of the *Farmer & Mechanic* absconded to the United States; and the publisher at once proposed that we should purchase his interest in the enterprise, which was done to the perfect satisfaction of all parties. The *British American Cultivator* was established upon the fall of the *Canadian Farmer & Mechanic*, and their engagements were made good to the public, which alone cost us upwards of £100. At the close of the third year, the actual loss sustained, without any indemnification for time, and the relinquishment of an highly lucrative situation, amounted to the almost incredible sum of £500. At this period in the history of the enterprise, it was the unanimous opinion of all with whom we consulted on the matter, that the wisest course to pursue, would be to abandon the publication altogether, and as a valuable friend stated, make the first loss the least. This advice was unheeded, because we knew that we had many tried friends, who appreciated our exertions in a course which but few would have made such severe and difficult efforts to establish, and relying upon this hope, and having confidence in our ability to carry it successfully through in the course of time, we resolved that we would at once employ a large portion of our time in active operations on the farm, and thus not only curtail very heavy expenses, but make up a portion of the loss previously sustained. After spending two years on the farm, we strenuously urged some enterprising person to open an Agricultural Warehouse in a central part of the Province, for the sole purpose of introducing the labor-saving machines, and improvements of other countries in Canada, by which means our farmers and mechanics might compete with those who reside in older countries, and have greater facilities for doing a more extensive and profitable business. No one responded to this suggestion, and at a very considerable inconvenience and