

Maple Sugar and the Canada Farmer.

When the first number of the above paper was published, "we hailed its birth as an ally," and as such wished it success—believing, as we yet do, that there is ample room for both it and the *Cultivator*, especially when the cheapness at which they are furnished is taken into view—but its conductors have not at all met us in the same friendly spirit. In their March number they have put forth strictures on our management, which, we think, might as well have been omitted. Our observations on sugar making, are of course open to criticism of a fair and legitimate kind; but surely these conductors cannot (as they do not) boast of professing much "comprehension" when they say, that as Canada does not export to the Southern States, they "cannot discover the point or meaning" of our statement, that if Canada did not export a surplus of wheat "the import merchants would lose" (they print the word loose) "an important item of export to place to their credit in the markets from whence they draw their supplies of sugar, &c." It is easy to be seen that our meaning is, that if we have no wheat to export, we have no return of cash wherewith to purchase sugar. But the remarks of the *Canada Farmer* are, doubtless unwittingly to their authors, quite against their own line of argument, for if we do not export to the markets from whence we get our supplies of sugar, and there be, as they say, "no reciprocity in the matter," i.e. if we have to send out hard cash for the large quantity of sugar we require, is that fact not the very strongest and most prominent argument in support of our statement, that if we can supply ourselves by the production of sugar at home, it is as valuable an interest to foster and encourage as that of wheat, i.e. of such an extra supply, over and above our home consumption, as would pay for that sugar if purchased abroad? To every one who viewed our remarks in a candid spirit, such was readily understood to be our meaning.

From our proposition, that the proportion of wheat the production of Canada, "which we can export, would fall short, in a series of ten or fifteen years, of supplying the country with sugar,"

these editors entirely dissent—and very cunningly, but certainly most unfairly, refer to "the Custom House returns for the Port of Toronto, for the year ending 5th January, 1847." We are all, however, aware, that the last has been an isolated, an unusual year in the export of breadstuffs,—and in the discussion of a subject of such vital importance as that before us, we are neither to be tied down to one year nor to one port. We spoke of a series of years, therefore, in fairness, let the returns for several previous years be taken as a standard to decide between us and the *Canada Farmer*, and we will find that there was imported into Great Britain, of wheat from the British colonies,

In 1836, none,
In 1837, none,
In 1838, none,
In 1839, 27 quarters,
In 1840, 8192 quarters.

In five years, 8219 quarters, or 65,752 bushels. And that the imports from Great Britain into these colonies were, in

1836, 64 055 quarters,
1837, 99 522,
1838, 67 368,
1839, 813,
1840, 479.

In five years,.... 232,242 quarters, or 1,57,936 bushels,

From which deduct exports } 65 762 "
as above,

and we have,.... 1,792,184 bushels, being the excess of our imports over exports—so that in this series of years we had no surplus wheat to pay for sugar. But even let us take the year 1845, which was a very favorable one in the way of exports, and consequently, most adverse to our proposition, and therefore not one out of almost all the other years, we might be called upon to choose.—but we do so, because we wish to arrive at the truth, and to give, not a prejudiced or one-sided, but a fair and candid statement of facts; and moreover the returns for that year are complete, and we have them quite at our hands—we therefore proceed to lay before our readers—

1st. A detailed view of the quantity of sugar imported into Canada in 1845, as follows:—

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|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| Raw or Muscovado,..... | 7,722,632 | at 5d. per lb..... | £150,966 |
| Refined..... | 1,736,502 | at 8½ l. do | 61,500 |
| Crushed Loaf,..... | 1,235,135 | at 3 l. do | 34,738 |
| Molasses,..... | 4,524,939 | at 2d. do | 37,600 |

£284,907