

man was satisfied with the fact, altho' he was not aware of the cause of it; and when he was informed that one of the principal agents was the phosphate of lime, he acknowledged the advantages of science, and the assistance that it would afford to the practical farmer; but still it must be confessed that too many prefer the darkness of their own conceits to the light of knowledge. In England and throughout the United States Agricultural Works and Periodicals meet with extensive encouragement and support. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick the limited circulation of European, American, or Domestic Agricultural Works and Papers, is a sad evidence against our intellectual improvement, without which the cultivation of the soil will be correspondingly deficient. We do not claim originality in the various articles recommended to consideration in this Periodical, but we do say that the valuable extracts from Leibig on the philosophy of Agriculture, as well as the practical observations taken from the British Husbandry, from which Jackson has copied most copiously, are sufficient to entitle it to the attention of our Farmers. Societies may form and re-form—resolve and re-resolve—elect officers, and publish their elections and nominations; but they will be vain shows, and evanescent efforts, without the necessary aid of agricultural reading. The cultivation of a soil destitute of fertilizing salts is unprofitable labour, unless it is supplied with them, and the formation of Societies, the announcement of office bearers and the scale of premiums for the best cattle, will be equally unavailing if the mind is not enriched with the fertilizing salts of science; and we are inclined to venture the opinion that Societies would advance the object of Agriculture, if, while they were appropriating funds in the shape of premiums for the best breeds of Cattle, they would at the same time offer some premium upon the best essay upon Manures, or the soils of particular districts, or upon

any interesting subject of Provincial Husbandry, which would act as a stimulus to, or imply the necessity of, reading agricultural works. It is entirely erroneous to assert that as agriculture is altogether a matter of labour and practice, that practice of itself will make the farmer perfect. Chemical analysis has detected the different constituents of various plants, and in this manner science has contributed greatly to the improvement of practical agriculture. Our farmers have adopted a very wasteful practice with their manures. Science has discovered that the gases or vapours which escape during the process of putrefaction are powerful agents in the economy of vegetation, and experience aided by this knowledge has ascertained the importance of retaining those gases, which is effected by the absorbent power of the earth when employed as a covering over a fermenting compost. It would be superfluous to enlarge on the benefits which science has conferred upon agriculture, and it is sufficiently conclusive of the importance of this science to refer to the splendid talents which have been devoted to the researches of it. The difficulties which have embarrassed the mercantile interests of the Provinces, and the wishful look which many now turn to the comfortable houses and competences in the country, which they exchanged for the hopes and fears of commerce will have a tendency to elevate the character of agricultural pursuits; and as it is universally acknowledged that agriculture is the basis of national prosperity, it thus follows that it is worthy of every public exertion, which is calculated to ensure and advance the success of it. The diffusion of knowledge, or in other words, useful education in all its varied departments, has a legitimate claim upon Legislative protection, which has been liberally extended over collegiate establishments for the resurrection and perpetuity of Dead Languages. We are not opposed to such establishments, although in our