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We have seen a notice of a late work published in England by a Mr. Sirr, "China and the Chinese," which appears to be of a highly interesting character, particularly so far as it describes the great attention given to agriculture in China, and the honors bestowed by the Emperors on eminent agriculturists in that country. Every encouragement and protection is afforded to agriculture. Many of the Emperors have written works on the best manner of manuring and cultivating the soil. A great agricultural festival, in which the Emperor himself takes a prominent part, is held annually, and is fully described by Mr. Sirr. This example, from a most industrious, and certainly a great nation, (though we may have overrun the country by comparatively a small military force,) should stimulate us to value our agriculture at its proper estimate. To Canada, it is by far the most important interest in the country, and unquestionably the most neglected. Mr. Sirr's work informs us that the late Emperor of China made a law which is rigidly adhered to by the present Emperor, to the following effect:—

"Having an uncommon and great regard for husbandmen and cultivators of the earth, the emperor orders the governors of every province and city to give information every year, at the Court of Tribunals, held in Pekin, of the person of this profession who is most remarkable in their districts for his application to the culture of the earth, peace with neighbours, preserving union in his own family, and freedom from extravagance. Upon the report of the viceroy or governor being verified, the emperor will raise this diligent and wise husbandman to the degree of mandarin of the eighth order. This distinction is a reward for bestowing care and atten-

tion upon the cultivation of the fruits of the earth, and will enable him who is so honoured to wear the robe of a mandarin; he will also have a right to visit the governor of the city, and to drink tea with him. The husbandman who may receive his token of imperial love will be respected while he lives, and, after his death, he will have funeral obsequies observed in accordance with his rank; and his title of honour and dignities will be inscribed in the hall of his ancestors. All men bow before this mark of imperial favour."

The following law which has for ages been established in China, is deserving of the consideration of all statesmen, and with some modification, might be judiciously applied, especially to the crown lands in Canada:—

"By an ancient law, all neglected or uncultivated lands become forfeited to the Emperor, who grants them to farmers on condition that the land is kept in proper cultivation. The consequence is, that in China, very little uncultivated land is to be seen. A fifth, and in some instances, a fourth part of all produce is reserved for the emperor."

It may be supposed that, in our pretended high state of civilization, we may safely allow every interest to take care of itself, but we are confident, nevertheless, that it will be impossible that this country can rise from its present depression except by the improvement of its agriculture and the augmentation of its products in quantity and value. All attempts to improve our general condition by any other means, will be a failure. In the present state of the world, it is impossible for any country to become permanently prosperous, unless by her own productions, whatever they may be, and we do not hesitate to say that those who think differently as regards this country, labour under a great delusion, and time will prove it. Noth-