

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LOWER CANADA  
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society have now been in existence for a period of more than three years, and although they may not have effected all the good they were desirous to produce, it is satisfactory to know they have been instrumental in exciting a very considerable interest amongst the rural population, and others, for the improvement of Agriculture. If there was no other proof of this, the greatly increased demand this Spring for Agricultural seeds of every description, from all parts of Lower Canada, to the Seedsman of the Society, would clearly demonstrate that this interest has been created, and produced practical effects that will soon display themselves, and have a very beneficial influence upon the Agriculture of this section of the Province. The Society, instead of making a display by Cattle Shows and Exhibitions, have endeavoured to awaken a spirit of inquiry, and desire for improvement amongst Agriculturists in Lower Canada to its remotest bounds, and they have reason to suppose with considerable success. The primary object of the Society was to effect the improvement of Agriculture where it was most required; and this, they were convinced, could not be effectually accomplished in the commencement, by Cattle Shows and Exhibitions, the benefit of which are generally participated in *only* by our best farmers, men of capital, and perhaps having their farms in good order, while those who really required instruction and encouragement to improve their system of husbandry and stock of cattle, would feel themselves virtually excluded, at least, from any share in the premiums distributed. The efforts of the Society, therefore, have been directed to instruct and encourage those who would be so excluded in their present circumstances, and enable them to come forward as competitors at Cattle Shows and Exhibitions, on equal terms with those who are now in advance of them in Agricultural skill and other advantages, and who conse-

quently, would take all the premiums to themselves at these Exhibitions. Under these circumstances, the Society have the satisfaction to believe, that the funds that were at their disposal have been employed as judiciously and advantageously for the improvement of Agriculture, *where most requiring it*, as they could be in any other way for the attainment of that object. Their action has had a general effect, and was not confined to one locality, nor was the distribution of their funds made to parties who were good farmers, or men of capital, requiring no payment or encouragement for doing or having what they knew was for their own advantage. The Society have published an Agricultural Journal, containing information and instruction in the science and practice of improved husbandry, and have circulated this Journal to the extent of about 3,000 copies (2,000 in French, and 1,000 in English) throughout every parish of Lower Canada, where improved systems of husbandry were little known or practiced; and the Society confidently hope, that the "seed" they have thus sown, and are sowing, will succeed and flourish, and yield an abundant produce of good to the rural population and to the country generally.

The Chartered Societies of the British Isles publish each a quarterly Journal, which they denominate their "Transactions," containing the most useful information on Agricultural subjects; together with recording the "Transactions" of the Societies, which, however, only form a small portion, comparatively, of the Journals. These Transactions are published at a considerable expense to the Societies, and distributed to the members. The Report of one of these Societies last year, gave this cost of publishing as over £1500 annually, and there were only receipts for copies sold to the amount of about £150, but the Report stated that the publication was highly estimated, and a principal means of obtaining members for the Society, and connecting the Society together.