

all these points of view ours have confessedly the advantage ; and are only inferior to them in a higher rate of wages.

But if the balance be in our favour with respect to the raising of meal and flour, it inclines against us with regard to the cost of rearing beef and mutton. The British farmer can bring these latter to market at a lower rate than the Nova Scotian, and this he accomplishes by the mildness of the winter and the nature of the feed.—The sheep both in Scotland, England, and Ireland are allowed to range their native hills throughout the whole year, and to pick up a subsistence from the decayed herbage, heath, and wild plants which are but seldom covered with snow. The cattle again are fed in the foldyard for not more than two or three months, and in the more temperate districts, for less than the half of that time. The straw of white crops with a moderate supply of turnips is the species of fodder which supports them, and its principal value is always estimated by its conversion into manure. A heifer is usually taken for wintering at the rate of 20s.—a sum which here would not pay above the third of the hay which must be consumed during the long and dreary six months when our cattle must of necessity be shut up. If these data be correct, it would appear that the English farmer raises his meal and flour at a greater, and his meat at a less expense, than these can be respectively produced in Nova Scotia ; and yet in order to reimburse his outlay, he requires a difference between them of double the price ; whereas our farmer during the last year has been supplying the butcher, weight for weight, either at or below what he could obtain, for his bread-corn. That region can never be destined by nature for pasturage where the domesticated animal must be fed by hand for more than half of the year ; and where, on account of the extraordinary quantity of hay needed, the very best lands must be devoted to their use. It is this capital mistake which has so long borne down the agricultural interest, and led our landholders to pursue that branch of rural economy, where they will ever be attended with indigence and pecuniary embarrassment. The cost of rearing a pound of meat will always in this country be somewhat more than the half of producing the same weight of oatmeal and flour ; and therefore the natural relation subsisting between the prices should be adjusted at a higher level correspondent to the capabilities of the climate.