

# WEEKLY MISCELLANY.

Devoted to the Intellectual and Moral Improvement of the Young.

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## AGRICULTURE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

In the present condition of Nova Scotia Agriculture is by far the most important of our industrial pursuits, and we are sorry to say it is more neglected than any other. The soil and climate are well adapted to farming—to the growing and maturing of all the vegetable products of temperate climates; and still we continue to import largely and pay the foreigner for what might be raised at home, and of as good quality. We have heard Americans, who were well acquainted with the Province, say that wheat was the only plant in the production of which they could excel us, and yet we find, from Professor Johnston's report, that while an acre (on an average) in the State of New York produces 14 bushels, an acre in Nova Scotia produces 25 to 33! and that it also greatly exceeds the State of Ohio as well as Canada West.

In many cases the fertility of the soil has occasioned culpable neglect in its management, and in comparatively few instances do farmers give nearly that care and attention which are necessary, and bestowed in every land which is worthy of being called an agricultural country, to the tilling, manuring and general management of their fields. One great error has been frequently committed in striving to bring a larger extent of land into cultivation than the ability or means of the occupant could properly accomplish: and this is owing to ignorance of the fact that one acre properly cultivated will produce more, and be much more profitable to the farmer, than two acres carelessly managed. Farmers are also too commonly indifferent to the great importance of manuring their land, and of the description of manures most suitable to particular lands.

In the growth of oats and rye, Nova Scotia goes far ahead of the neighbouring States and territories. She beats twenty three of the United States in the production of buckwheat, and every state in that of barley except Ohio and New York. In Indian corn most of the States surpass us, although the quality raised is excellent. Perhaps the reason why wheat is not more extensively grown is that it may be found to be more precarious as a crop than other grains.

In growth of hay and production of the dairy, only the larger and more populous states are in advance of us; while in potatoes and esculent roots we excel the most in quantity, and all in quality.

Mangel wurtzel and turnips—particularly the former—grow to a great size in Nova Scotia, and appear to thrive better with us than in any other portion of the North American Continent. Flax and hemp, if cultivated, might prove profitable crops and valuable articles of export. We have heard a gentleman in Britain, extensively engaged in the manufacture of cordage, say, that the hemp of North America was far superior to the Russian hemp; but injured by the careless manner in which it was prepared for the market.

As a grazing country, Nova Scotia, considering her extent, ranks first among the British North American Colonies. All the interior countries, together with many parts of those on the Atlantic Coast, are admirably suited to this purpose.

It is greatly to be regretted that so many of our young men yearly leave their native country to seek employment in the States. There should be no occasion for any doing so. And now that the Government is prepared, by the recent Immigration Act, to lay off suitable tracts of land in lots of one hundred acres, with convenient roads running through them; and, when required for actual settlement, to place them in possession of inhabitants of the Province or industrious immigrants, on a term of three years' credit for the purchase money, there is the greatest inducement to remain, and take hold of

such advantages as are offered in no other country on so easy terms. In a country, taking all for and against it into consideration, we believe to be unsurpassed by any other; and unquestionably one of the healthiest in the world.

We appeal to the Parents of the Youth of Nova Scotia, to consider and advise with their children, and not leave them for the want of such aid as they can give to seek their bread in a strange land—to serve others who care no more for them than the value of their labour, and will recompense them for it as moderately as they can bargain for—when there is the fairest prospect of obtaining, by a few years' honest and healthy industry, a comfortable home and a respectable farm that will make them independent for life in the land of their nativity,—a land of perfect freedom where the rights of all are respected, and life and property protected.

## RICH WITHOUT MONEY.

Many a man is rich without money. Thousands of men with nothing in the pocket, and thousands without even a pocket, are rich. A man born with a good, sound constitution, a good stomach, a good heart and good limbs, and a pretty good head-piece, is rich. Good bones are better than gold; tough muscles than silver; and nerves that flash fire and carry energy to every function, are better than houses or lands.

Education may do much to check evil tendencies, or to develop good ones; but it is a great thing to inherit the right proportion of faculties to start with.

That man is rich who has a good disposition—who is naturally kind, patient, cheerful, hopeful, and who has a flavour of wit and fun in his composition. The hardest thing to get along with in this life, is a man's own self. A cross, selfish fellow, a desponding and complaining fellow—a timid, care-burdened man—these are all born deformed on the inside. Their feet may not limp, but their thoughts do.