

To bear up under the influences which have been previously pointed out, it is also necessary that the staple products of the country should be increased. At present, the only export article that the Canadian people can boast of is wheat and flour. Many others might be added to the list, and scores of articles that are imported from other countries, could be produced as cheaply here as in any other portion of the globe. The country that depends mostly upon one staple export article, is liable to be placed in a most dangerous position. To illustrate this matter, it is only necessary to cite facts which every business man well understands.

Last year the Canadian export merchants suffered extremely from the sudden changes in the British tariff laws; so much so, indeed, that if confidence had not been strong in their favor, hundreds would have been obliged to have closed up their business.— Those who thus failed in meeting their engagements, have been this year happily placed in a situation, through a productive Canadian harvest, and a certain prospect of good prices in the British markets, of regaining their former losses. But what would have been the result, had the potato crop not failed in Europe, or had the Canadian harvest been an unfavorable one? We have no anxiety to unnecessarily frighten the good people of this country, but, notwithstanding, we have no hesitation in stating, that if the potato crop had not been a failure in Europe, that wheat would not have exceeded three shillings per bushel in the Western Canadian market. We shall allow others to draw their own inferences from this statement. Nothing can be more desirable, than to see the inhabitants of a new country like Canada, evincing a disposition to adopt the improvements of the day, and to endeavor to place their country in a situation that a prospect of a good harvest in Britain and other European countries, should not have an unhealthy influence upon their interests; and also that a failure of the Canadian wheat crop should be ineffectual in producing a general state of alarm and bankruptcy among the commercial classes. These evils may

be averted; and even without the special favor of Imperial legislation, Canada may be placed in a comparative state of commercial independence, provided those who have influence in the country would employ the necessary means of making her so. The groundwork of every improvement should be based upon the principle of increasing the products, and at the same time, lessen the costs of production, by employing labour-saving machinery, and by adopting a judicious system of cropping. It may be thought rather a difficult task to do this; but it is the writer's opinion, that such a system of agriculture must be substituted for the one that is in general use, or else the farmers will fail in realising large profits from their lands. Still the question to be settled is, how shall the farmers of Canada increase their crops and profits, and also improve the condition of their soil? To reply to this query, in a satisfactory manner, would require much more space than is usually given to original articles in Canadian magazines.— For fear of being tedious, only a part of the subject will be discussed in this number, and at an early period it will again be resumed.

In order that the practical farmer may readily understand the nature and importance of this subject, it is indispensable that it be treated in a plain practical manner;— and probably the writer could adopt no course that would prove so generally interesting and useful, as to furnish the reader with a clear exposition of his views upon the best systems of cultivating the various crops grown, or those which should be grown in the colony, to enable the farmers to successfully compete with foreign competition in wheat. As this must be considered the farmer's golden crop, its cultivation should be well understood by all. It is not only necessary that the wheat-grower should guard against chess, smut, rye, cockle, and other impurities, but that his average yield should equal at least twenty-five bushels of merchantable wheat per acre. Forty, and even fifty bushels may, under favorable circumstances, be harvested from an acre of land,