

THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE IN THE LOWER PROVINCE,
CONSIDERED.

WITH A VIEW TO THE RECOMMENDATION OF A BETTER SYSTEM.

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Having now considered the principal causes of the great loss of produce arising to the Province, the one, occasioned by the defective and exhausting mode of husbandry practised since the first settlement; and, the other, by a deficiency of the most important ingredient in soils, over a great part of the country; and having pointed out what I believe to be the surest remedies for these defects, I shall conclude this part of the subject with observing, that the first of these causes of deterioration which it would be advisable to remove will present itself to the sagacity of well informed land-holders by the nature of things in each Parish: Where manures can be immediately got, the desired improvements would doubtless begin with root, grass and corn crops by rotation, on the lands hitherto suffered to lay unproductive "*en friche*," and an immediate benefit would thereby not only be done to the lands, by greatly increasing the subsequent crops of corn, but the rearing of a quantity of cattle probably in a few years more than required for the markets of the Province, would be the good effect, when this practice should become much followed, as has been found, wherever these rotation crops, and the other advantages of modern agriculture have been introduced. The wealth then, that must ensue to the country by the addition of these discoveries would naturally tend to induce the farmers or land owners to begin the other method of repairing and strengthening the old and worn lands, viz. by an additional proportion of clay, &c. to their soils.

On the other hand, if it be difficult immediately to procure sufficient manures, by the land holders and farmers in the distant Parishes, they might commence the improvements by claying their u lands, when found too sandy, and, by forming compost heaps with some cattle manure, Terre Noir, &c. which composts, if managed according to the practice of modern agriculture, would be found to increase the quantity of manure two to five fold. Indeed if I recollect right, the Letters of Agricola lately published, propose modes to increase the manure ten fold. These letters will I trust, shortly be translated in this Province, and will probably render the art of preparing composts plain and interesting to the Canadian farmer.

In order, however, that no delay may take place to such intelligent, active and public spirited Landholders as may take the lead in these improvements, as an example for the advancement of their