

much to the chagrin of their parents, who at once conclude on sending no more of their sons to get a liberal education.—Their neighbours influenced by their opinions, follow their example. They never once attribute the effect to its proper cause, namely, that they gave their sons that kind of education which excited a taste for, and qualified them for practising other pursuits than that of Agriculture. Would it be reasonable for a parent who had bound his son to serve an apprenticeship to a shoemaker to expect that, that at the end of his term, he would turn his attention to blacksmithing, and at once be proficient in it? So with any other trade. And as it is impossible to gain proficiency in any undertaking, without the preparatory processes necessary to give that proficiency, so it is in reference to agriculture. Another cause of many of our youth engaging in other professions is the low estimate which is formed of the dignity of labour. This is producing a most vicious state of feeling. A sort of silky sentimentality, vanity, conceit, and folly, drive numbers of young men to other occupations. They seem to think that no one has any claim to respectability, or can hope to rise in the world, unless he be a physician, merchant, lawyer, &c. They draw vivid pictures of the success which shall attend their path through life, and of the ease and comfort which they shall enjoy when emancipated from what they consider the toil and drudgery of a farmer's life. They crowd into our towns and cities, where many of them exchange purity of life and manners and a noble profession for vice, dissipation, and disappointment, and, too often, a miserable end. This state of feeling prevails to an alarming extent, and must be promptly and vigorously met, or the sun of our prosperity will be obscured. Where, then, is the remedy? The work must begin with yourselves. You have, by your apathy, sanctioned the degradation of your profession. You have permitted other men to form a low estimate of it, and to usurp that position which in common with them you should occupy. What secular pursuit is superior to yours, either in point of honour or usefulness; yet, by many, it is not so deemed. I have heard men, from whose education better things might have been expected, talk contemptuously of the men who wear home-spun. Make the frieze coats respected. Don't think and say that labour and education are incompatible. Teach your young men that they ought to be associated. Give your sons not merely good common school instruction but a liberal and thoroughly scientific Agricultural education. And, when they shall have finished this curriculum, instead of looking for them in the crowded city, engaged in other avocations, you will find them beside you, attached to your own honourable calling, aiding you with enlightened counsel, and comforting you in the evening of life. Do men in any other walk of life, treat their professions disrespectfully? Are

they not all eager to bring the light of science to bear on them. Is it less necessary for yours. Nothing is hazarded by asserting that its aid is becoming absolutely indispensable. It is true that we have got on to some extent without much scientific knowledge, but the time is at hand when a different course must be pursued. The old system does well enough while the large deposits of organic matter last. With a virgin soil and abundance of vegetable manure, there is little difficulty in raising abundant crops. This stock is nearly exhausted, and other modes of cultivation are needed. Professor Johnston who visited Canada some years ago adverts to this subject in a way which ought to rouse us to action. Although the picture he has drawn may be too highly colored, yet there is so much truth in the reference I am induced to quote it:—"As to the condition of agriculture, as an art of life, it cannot be denied that in this region, as a whole, it is in primitive condition. In relation to English markets, therefore, and the prospects and profits of the British farmer, my persuasion is, that year by year, our transatlantic cousins will become less and less able, except in extraordinary seasons, to send large supplies, of wheat to our island ports. And when the virgin freshness shall have been rubbed off their new lands, they will be unable, with their present knowledge and methods, to send wheat to the British market so cheap as the more skillful farmers of Great Britain and Ireland can do. If any one less familiar with practical agriculture, doubt that such must be the final effect of the exhausting system, now followed on all the lands of North America, I need only inform him that the celebrated Lothian farmers, in the immediate neighbourhood of Edinburgh, who carry all the crops on their land, as the North American farmers now do, return, on an average, ten tons of well rotted manure every year to each acre, while the American farmer returns nothing."

Such is the estimate of our position and prospects, formed by one who is well qualified to judge, and our own experience will soon attest its truth. The question now is, shall Canada maintain and advance her status, or shall she retrograde? There is not a man here who does not respond "we shall not be second in degree to any farmers in the world, and our country shall be as prosperous as theirs."

I would not be understood as wishing to undervalue in the least degree the labors of the early settler. His tools and privations are written, indelibly, on the page of his country's history. I have not lived 22 years in Canada without knowing something of them, or being unable to appreciate them. When I look around me and see so many venerable men, whose grey hairs gather to the olden time, the imagination can portray very different scenes from those which now meet our view. There are those here who can look back to the time when the only

building on the place where Cobourg now stands, was the old bakehouse, where supplies of bread were obtained by the few sea-faring men who crept along the coast, with their scanty cargoes of merchandise or military stores. In those days there were none of the floating palaces which now minister to the ease and comfort of travellers. But if discovery and progression have been rapid, it is because the first steps were taken so securely by the "Pioneers." The solitary axe in the wilderness seemed but a hopeless instrumentality, but it was a sure precursor of our present prosperity. The jaded ox-team of the early settler, winding its way through the almost trackless forest, like a forlorn hope, was an earnest that to-day the Iron-horse should with gigantic strength, and with almost the speed of lightning, dash along to the remotest part of the province.

To return to the subject of agricultural education. It has been already hinted that for the learned professions, thorough training is imperative. This is also the case with every trade. A man is not deemed competent to make a coat or a shoe, who has not served an apprenticeship of several years. Yet men are expected to manage farms who are mere tyros in experience, and in great measure ignorant of the science of agriculture. If the next generation of farmers could be well educated in their profession, it is almost impossible to estimate the vast change which would take place in the world's progress. What is urged is, Education, in the true and proper sense of the term, namely, the thorough training of the mind with a special reference to the practice of Agriculture. It includes the theory and practice of the profession, neither separately, but both combined. Theory alone cannot make a man a good farmer. In order either to do work well, or to be fitted to direct others in the performance of it, a farmer ought with his own hands to have gone through the process. A young man, when commencing his course, should begin at the rudiments, and progress step by step to its completion; doing with his own hands, daily, the labour in each department. But together with the correct practice of farming, he must call in the aid of science in order to make him a good farmer. Science must assist him by telling what sustenance each kind of crop requires, whether it be organic or inorganic, and from a careful analysis of the soil, whether such substances be among its component parts, and in the necessary proportions. No amount of merely practical skill can in all cases indicate this; science alone can determine it. How often is the merely practical man bitterly disappointed when, after preparing a field in his usual way, he finds that the crop falls far short of his expectations. Such failures cannot be accounted for by any incidental and obvious causes; there is the want of something to complete the amount and kind of food necessary for the crop, but he can't tell what