

marked departure from it. The different schemes of encouragement have been amended, or enlarged, or more or less modified every successive year, but still the first great original outline has been preserved inviolate and untouched. The culture of grain has been promoted in all the different societies; and green crops have been regarded, not as being very important themselves, but as subservient to the success of the other. When Lime and Summer-fallow were admitted among the objects of competition, it was by reason of their subserviency to the great main end; and in accordance with the same view, composting and draining are proposed to be added in that scheme which has been submitted by the director to the Legislature. No suggestions, from what quarter soever they came, have been rejected, which offered to extend or improve the cultivation of white crops; and this steady and unbending perseverance in the prosecution of one object has been crowned with the most unexampled good fortune. In confirmation of this there is no need of appealing to any doubtful authority, as you all are in possession of the official letters which were written by the local societies in December and January last, in answer to a Circular despatched by order of the Board for the very purpose of drawing out and bringing together this information. If we suffer ourselves to be inflicted by this cloud of witnesses, and surely no evidence can be more unbiassed, more particular, or less suspicious, our path of duty is clear and beset with no sort of difficulty. We have nothing more

to do than uphold the present system of raising bread corn throughout the different associations; and that on one recognised general plan, which will always command obedience while sanctioned by the Provincial Government. For the four last years this has been the uniform and undeviating policy pursued, and the success attending it has gone beyond the most ardent anticipations. The goal is now within sight, to which our wishes, our desires, our exertions have been pointed; and it is only necessary, in order to carry the prize, to avoid starting from the course, or lagging behind through careless or blamable indifference.—These letters from the societies which have just been printed and circulated among all members, whether honorary or ordinary, contain a body of evidence which must force conviction on every unprejudiced mind, and show that by supporting them a little longer, the independence of this country will be no longer matter of theory or pure speculation.

Here I might stop in my argument, and take for granted the soundness of the conclusion, but luckily we can call in other and less exceptionable testimony to the same effect, The Customs House return for 1823, of the Exports and Imports of agricultural produce into Halifax add their attestation to that of the societies. They exhibit a progressive diminution of foreign flour needed for consumption; and without further preface I shall hasten into the midst of things, and lay them before you in detail.