

British America and the United States. We may again refer to this publication, recommending it, in the mean time, for the perusal of our readers, and all persons looking out for a settlement.

We embrace the present opportunity of mentioning the recent appearance of Mr. Hind's "*Lectures on Agricultural Chemistry*," in a corrected and much enlarged form, by the same publishers. It is encouraging to find that a taste for scientific reading is increasing among our farmers, who will find in Mr. Hind's second edition much to interest their understandings, and, if properly carried out, to improve and render more profitable their practice. Unless farmers read and think; work with their heads as well as their hands, they must necessarily fall behind the rest of the community, not only in intelligence and in their specific calling; but as a necessary consequence, in social position and political influence. We hope that this great truth is beginning to be generally perceived and appreciated.

JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE LOWER CANADA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY VOL. 4. R. W. LAY: Montreal, 1851.

We have to thank Mr. Evans, the Editor of this Journal, and the Secretary of the Lower Canada Agricultural Society, for a complete set for the past year. The "getting up," as it is technically termed, of this monthly periodical is exceedingly neat, and we have much pleasure in bearing our humble testimony to the sound practical judgment which characterizes its matter, whether original or selected. Mr. Evans has long been favourably known in Canada, as an intelligent and practical Agriculturist, and has done much with his pen, and otherwise, to improve the agriculture of his adopted country. We earnestly hope that the Journal is receiving from our Lower Canada brethren that liberal support to which it is so justly entitled. We could like to be assured that some copies were taken by our Societies, or individuals, in the Upper Province, when, perhaps, a similar compliment would be paid to our labours in the Lower. We throw out this hint, believing it would be mutually advantageous. It is high time that both sections of the United Province should become better acquainted with each other's doings and wants; and that we should learn to think and feel as *one people*: and a united effort to promote the interests of our agriculture, seems to us to afford the readiest means of obtaining so important and desirable an object.

SCOBIE'S CANADIAN ALMANAC, AND REPOSITORY OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, FOR 1852. Toronto: Hugh Scobie.

The continuation of this most useful, and we should now think, indispensable publication, is a convincing proof of the material and social progress of the country. A work consisting of 96 closely and neatly printed octavo pages, abounding in matter carefully selected and condensed, with which every adult person in the country must feel it advantageous, if not necessary to be acquainted, with a well executed map of a large portion of the Province, and sold at the retail price of *Seven Pence Half-*

penny, needs no commendation from us. Nothing short of an enormous sale can ensure the spirited publisher against heavy loss; and as the advent of each successive year is accompanied by this most useful Directory, we may fairly presume that the public appreciate its merits. No family ought to be without it; and nothing better could be sent "to the good people at Home," informing them correctly of the progress and actual condition of this young and rapidly improving country. We regret that our presentation copy was not received in time to enable us to give an earlier notice of this deservedly increasing popular publication.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE MUSEUM OF THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY EDINBURGH.

We deeply regret to learn from our recent English papers that a large portion of the extensive premises occupied by the well known seedsmen, Messrs. Peter Lawson and Sons, and the Highland Agricultural Society of Scotland, has been accidentally destroyed by fire. The Society's Library was burnt; but whether their numerous models of machinery, paintings, &c., sustained the same fate is not stated: we sincerely hope not. The stock of the Messrs. Lawsons was very large, and much injured; there being in subjacent cellars seeds of the value of £16,000. It was these eminent horticulturists that exhibited that splendid collection of the vegetable products of Scotland in the late World's Exhibition, which elicited such general admiration. Both parties, we are glad to find, were insured.

MR. MECCHI'S BALANCE SHEET.

This long desiderated document we find has come at last. Mr. Mechi at a recent meeting of the London Society of Arts, at which a number of farmers were present, produced the balance sheet of his celebrated Tip-tree Hall farm, in the county of Essex, for the past year. The result is an thing but encouraging. From October 30th 1850 to October 30th 1851, a clear loss of £653 12s. 4d. sustained; and this on a farm of about 150 acres, and after 7 or 8 years of lavish expenditure in manures and improvements, usually termed "high farming!" This loss is exclusive of any charges for skill and management, or domestic maintenance. When we were on this world renowned farm in 1845 our decided impression was, (which we afterwards announced in a printed report,) that liberal and scientific as might be Mr. Mechi's system of farming, with so large an amount of capital (some six or seven thousand pounds, if we remember correctly,) invested in buildings, implements, and machinery on so limited an area, could never be made to pay; and under the present reduced rates of farm produce, we are not at all surprised at the before mentioned result. What will our readers here in Canada say to a single item of Mr. Mechi's outlay during last year, viz, £1553 17s. 6d. for oil cake and grain, not produced on the farm, for the keep and fattening of stock! Mr. Mechi is a very intelligent, persevering, and generous hearted man, and for his own sake and that of British farmers generally, we should rejoice to hear that he was turning his ability and capital to a better account.