

should be. Ireland too has now got her "Royal Society." Why then should we look upon the "Royal Agricultural Society of British America," or the "Royal Association of Agriculture for Canada," as things to dream of.

Although space forbids me trespassing much farther on your attention. I cannot help mentioning how it would be in the power of this society to remove great and serious obstacles to your progress in Agriculture. Thus, the things most required by you are capital and labour, now of both these we have a superabundance; for to the facility of obtaining capital (real and fictitious) do we owe the present falling off in our manufacturing trade, machinery was forced into use and competition excited to such an extent as to glut all the markets, demand fell off, warehouses were full, and labourers were thrown out of employ by thousands. Both the necessities you want, we have, and yet you don't get them. The reason is our lower classes are deficient in the knowledge necessary to make enquiries on the subject. They know nothing of the particular circumstances which they would have to undergo—there are no agencies established from which information can be had—no statements made by authority as to the advantages they would receive, the difficulties which would meet them, the money required and the best use of it, so that if they do emigrate it is a lottery chance if they take the right tract. Now were there a society of the sort I mention, it might open correspondence with the various leading societies of England on the subject, it might through them publish statements of the wants of the colony and give to the emigrant plain and practical advice.—It might open offices with an agent in each great town in England where information might be had, maps seen of the colony, papers read and every information had. Communications to the various provincial papers, hand bills, and other means of inviting the emigrant would be diffused by these agents, from the society. Offices two on the seaboard where the Colonist lands should be established, so that the emigrant might be able to get work, authentic information, advice, and to make purchases as soon as he lands, and before his ignorance or the cupidity of others lead him into error.

If any or all these were taken under the auspices of a society like that I advocate, if information could be easily had and if the public could depend upon it—and springing from such a society it would be such as we'd be trusted.—I have no doubt but, that both labour and capital would reach Canada in a much greater ratio than it does. But no more at present—I have, I fear exhausted your patience, perhaps with what you may deem vague suggestions. If so you will no doubt give me credit for the *will*, though I fail in the *deed*. And believe me to be,

Yours verily truly,  
JOHN HANNAM.

#### UNBURNT BRICK HOUSES.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

Sir,

As you have had several communications on the subject of *unburnt brick houses*, allow me to direct further attention to that cheap and convenient mode of building in a country where substantial walls are desirable, and where notwithstanding the abundance of timber, so few understand the art of burning bricks and making lime, by acquainting you and your readers that in India buildings of that description are very common, and that in many of the military canton-

ments there the greater part of the private houses, though of very respectable and sometimes even handsome exterior appearance & possessing ample interior accommodations are composed of no better materials; and that I myself had twice to be my own architect in house building at two new military stations where nearly the whole of the officers dwelling were of the description alluded to. There are however several ways of finishing off these houses (which are always of the *cottage* or *bangalow* form) which it may be as well to describe, as considerable improvement may perhaps be made in the mode of building similar houses in this province.

The bricks are made in the usual manner, and of the usual form and size, without any admixture of straw, from the common surface soil or earth (which is generally of a loamy nature) without any other attention to quality than avoiding all brickle clays, and earth, at all impregnated with saline matter; and the mortar made use of is common mud of a proper consistency well kneaded with the naked feet of the native workman. After the building is covered in, the interior walls are plastered, and the cornices and other ornamental work roughly moulded with similar mud mortars, containing a quantity of chopped straw, to render it more adhesive and less liable to crack, after which it receives a second coat, and is finally finished off with a finer kind of mortar, composed of carefully sifted mud with the addition of a considerable proportion, say a fifth of cow dung, — which admits of being as well smoothed with a polishing trowel as the best lime plaster,—after which, as soon as dry, the walls receive, preparatory to being coloured, a slight coating of cow dung and water mixed with a little fine clay, of the consistency of common white-wash, laid on with a broad brush, which, when properly done, leaves the surface nearly as smooth as any stucco work, ready to take whatever colouring may suit the fancy.—The ceilings of even the largest rooms, are sold in formed of lath and plaster, but are simply made of a sheet of coarse calico, stretched tight by means of a succession of loops at short intervals, tied to a line of small rods or bamboos laid all round, immediately above the projecting cornice, and when properly put up, and white-washed, look nearly as well as a regularly plastered ceiling.

So much for the interior. The outside is finished in a variety of ways, but the most common, but least durable, is similar to that already described, followed by a couple of coats of white or yellow wash. A better, though more expensive way, is to lay on a coating of lime plaster, and finish with white-washing.

Besides this mode of building, solely with sun-dried bricks, there is another, in which *unburnt* and *burnt* bricks are united in the same work; the whole of the inner walls, (which are generally  $1\frac{1}{2}$  brick thick) being composed of the former alone, while the outer walls have an outside casing of *burnt* bricks, so as to be capable of resisting the severest weather. Of course, the latter description of building is most durable, but the common kind, with a little care, lasts many years; and, but for the ravages of that destructive pest, the white ant—happily here unknown—which eat their way through and up the highest walls, until they reach and prey upon the timber and thatch of the roof, they would endure as long as any brick or stone house.

You will perceive by the above account, that it is not found necessary to use straw in forming the bricks; but were they made so very large as those described by your correspondent Mr. Sheppard, they should,

no doubt, require it to prevent their cracking. Mr. McGregor's mode of building, comes nearer the East India way, and may perhaps be copied from it. Of the two, I prefer the latter, and I am convinced that either will prove very little more expensive, and certainly form far more comfortable dwellings than a frame house, as, judging from my own, which is partly frame and partly of half squared logs, I find the former portion exceedingly cold in winter, and unpleasantly warm in summer.

Should any of your readers be disposed to "try their hand" at a cottage of the kind; and desire to have any further hints on the subject, I shall be happy to meet their wishes, through the medium of your very useful Journal; and, in the mean time, beg to be allowed to remain,

Yours very obediently,

R. LACHLAN.

COLCHESTER, WESTERN DISTRICT, }  
May 29th, 1842. }

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator

Sir,

I have on a previous occasion, offered you my congratulations on your having commenced a periodical devoted exclusively to agricultural subjects, and I know of no good farmer, no lover of his country, I may however, say in one sentence, that I know no good man who will not cordially unite with me in wishing that your undertaking may be crowned with complete success.

Our Provincial Government have, in my opinion, acted wisely and certainly liberally, in granting money from the public funds, for the purpose of encouraging Societies, having for their object the promotion of improvements in agriculture; and I think those Societies would, in their turn, be acting wisely and liberally, by endeavouring as much as possible, to diffuse agricultural knowledge, which can in no way be better accomplished than through the medium of a periodical like THE CULTIVATOR.

As a means of carrying my views into effect, I would respectfully suggest to the Directors of Agricultural Societies, the propriety of making a copy of THE CULTIVATOR a part of every premium which they may offer; for instance, for a premium of ten dollars, I would pay nine dollars in cash, and for the remaining dollar, I would order THE CULTIVATOR for the current year, to be forwarded to the address of the person winning the premium, or (in case that he may already be a subscriber to that paper), to the address of any person whom he may choose to present it to. It will frequently happen, that one person may obtain several premiums, and it may be thought by some that it would be too much to compel such a person to take so many papers, but I would beg of such people to remember that a person under such fortunate circumstances can well afford to be liberal, and I will engage to say that they will have no difficulty in disposing of their superfluous papers as presents, to their less fortunate neighbours. If this plan was generally adopted, it would undoubtedly increase the circulation of THE CULTIVATOR, and consequently of useful knowledge to a great extent, and would lead to consequences of more importance than I at this moment have time to speculate upon.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

JOHN HARLAND.

GLoucester, May 21st, 1842.