

# AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL,

AND

# TRANSACTIONS

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We have very frequently endeavoured to show the unreasonableness of objecting to "Book Farming," if what is proposed to us in books is reasonable. There is much, certainly, to be found in some agricultural works that may not be practicable or practical, but this is no good reason that we should reject any sound and practical information or useful suggestions, because they are submitted to us in a printed form. We should not know what to think of a farmer who would reject useful information or suggestions he would see in a book or periodical, on the absurd grounds that he had not seen the practice recommended, suggested or proposed, in operation. How or when are we to expect to see the necessary improvements introduced in Canadian husbandry, if we are to wait until there is a Model Farm established in every parish to show these improvements in actual practice? By all means farmers should reject any plans of improvement proposed to them, either in books, periodicals, or otherwise, if they should have reason to believe that what was proposed would be impracticable or unprofitable; but by the same rule they should willingly adopt any reasonable proposition of amelioration that was in their power, whether proposed to them in a book, periodical, or in any other way. There may be agricultural works published, and periodicals conducted by parties who are not practically acquainted with their subject, but this is not always the case, and therefore farmers will act very much against their own interest when they reject all they see in agricultural books or periodicals.

In conducting this Journal, we frequently, or we might say constantly, go into lengthened explanations of any change of system or plans of improvement we submit, in order to show farmers the grounds upon which we make our propositions, to prove to them the defects that exist in their practice, and the probability of the favourable results that would ensue from adopting the changes we propose to them. We acknowledge we do this, in order to gain their confidence in our humble exertions for their advantage. We know that this confidence is necessary to the success of this Journal, and to the introduction of the plans of improvement we may suggest from time to time. If we should happen to propose or suggest any changes in our agricultural system or practice that are of a doubtful character, we would earnestly request of parties who would be of this opinion to communicate with us, and allow an opportunity of discussion. It cannot serve or promote the cause of agricultural improvement to denounce as "Theory" and "Book Farming" the suggestions we may feel it our duty to submit occasionally for the consideration of farmers. It would be a much better plan, if our "Theory" be good, to put it into practical operation and give it a fair trial, and if it succeeds, recommend it for general adoption. We shall always be very cautious in recommending changes, except where we are perfectly satisfied they are necessary—they are practicable—and would be advantageous, if properly carried out. We are aware it frequently happens that suggested changes and