

THE BRITISH AMERICAN



CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—*Dr. Johnson.*

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"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of land to practice, and every labourer to improve."—*Dr. Johnson.*

TORONTO, MARCH, 1844.

Spring is now breaking in upon the farmer,—much attention must be paid to every description of stock, and the most delicate kinds must be housed and regularly fed with wholesome succulent food, to enable them to withstand the cold chilling blasts of wind, and sudden changes of the weather, which are prevalent in this month. With a little extra attention, the young lambs, with scarcely an exception, may be raised, which, if properly taken care of will add greatly to the farmer's profits. In passing through the agricultural districts, at this season of the year, we frequently notice, some half dozen or dozen dead lambs thrown upon the roof of some old shed, or fence, which, to us, is a most appalling sight. This is owing to bad management and shows extremely bad taste.

Cattle must be closely guarded from the meadows,—we have seen valuable meadows entirely destroyed; by allowing horned cattle and horses, to roam at pleasure over the fields. See that the fences are repaired, and this, above all other business, should be attended to this month.

The manure for your potato crop, might with

advantage be drawn into the field, and made into a large heap, where it would be ready for future use.

This is a good time to repair your farming implements, see that your ploughs, harrows, and roller are in good order: and if you are not in possession of the latter implement, the use of which is indispensable in good husbandry, lose no time in having one made.

Procure ashes, salt and soot; or salt and lime, or charcoal dust, to press your wheat crops; which, if applied in a proper manner, about the first week in May, will be found to act like a charm in pushing forward and maturing the plants. The farmer will find, in using soot, that its effects will be materially increased by adding to it an equal quantity of salt:—one barrel of each per acre, will be found a pretty liberal top dressing. Lime may be applied at the rate of fifteen, ashes, five; and charcoal dust, ten bushels per acre. The ground should be harrowed singly, with an extremely light pair of seed harrows, then sowed with any or all of the above stimulant manures, and then immediately rolled. The harrowing instead of injuring the young wheat plants will, in its effects, almost equal a hand hoeing, in pulverizing the hard crust which is formed on the surface, by the freezing and hawings, which take place at this season of the year; and the rolling will compress the fine soils about the roots of the plants in such a manner, that they will almost immediately take deep root and put on a fine healthy colour.

In all probability these suggestions will, in most cases, be considered matter of speculation. As the genius of our fellow farmers is such that they are prone to doubt the practicability of much that is recommended to them, by the writers on the various branches of their exalted

and honourable profession, we would venture to recommend them, at least, to make a few trials on a small scale, in the application of the substances mentioned, on their wheat crops.

Look next day to your cows, ewes and mares, and other breeding animals; provide them warm dry places; give them your best turnips, potatoes, mangle wurzel, and hay; regard also their cleanliness.

Maple sugar should now be made. The great majority of the Canadian farmers have good groves of sugar maple, and those who are thus situated ought to depend as much upon manufacturing their own sugar, as they would in growing breadstuffs for their families. The State of Vermont, containing a much less population than Western Canada, made in the year 1842, six millions of pounds of maple sugar, besides molasses and vinegar. The above quantity of sugar, at 6J. per lb., would amount to the enormous sum of £150,000. We venture to say that a greater quantity than this could be produced in Western Canada. The present wholesale price of West India sugar, is 56s. per cwt; and from our experience, we would venture to say, it may be probably manufactured in this country, at a much less price than the foregoing. As our space forbids us giving detailed directions in performing the manufacturing of sugar, we would merely say, et cetera, be diligent and close attention to the business, be your motto, and remember the old adage, that "what is worth doing, is worth well doing."

AGENTS FOR THE CULTIVATOR.

The public are respectfully informed, that owing to the frequent absence of the Editor from the city, the services of Mr. John Eastwood, Jr., Yonge Street; and Mr. Angus McIntosh, Merchant, Lot Street; have been procured as local agents of the *Cultivator*, who are authorized to receive subscriptions, and transact business for the paper.