

consistency of this system, has produced Legislative interference, and in the 30th of his late Majesty an act or ordinance was passed by which cattle was precluded from being allowed to run at large. It is obvious that previous to the passing of this act there could be little attention paid to Agriculture in this country and more particularly to fencing, for the whole country had more the appearance of a common than of cultivated land; for there was no security either for what was laid down in grass, or what was under green crops. I am aware in England there are some places where the usage is to turn out the cattle and sheep at a certain day, to run at large, and these rights are held by Charter. But in this country there is no such tenure, and hence the custom termed *L'Abandon des Animaux* was effectually and completely abolished by the above mentioned act or ordinance. The effect of this act being put in force gave a new spring to the regular farmer. The English mode of culture began to be adopted as the farmer might now fence in his fields and at all seasons exclude both his neighbours cattle and his own, and much advantage would arise were this plan more generally adopted than it is. The few good farmers then in the Colony divided their farms into small enclosures, and appropriating each to its particular species of crop was enabled to reap the produce without having it destroyed by the roaming of all the cattle in his neighbourhood.

But to return to the subject of fences, I shall offer a few observations on each sort.

Stone fences have the sanction of experience in the old country in their favour.—In North Britain they are in general use, and so they are in Ireland. In the latter country from sea to sea, and from Dublin to Cork, no other description of fence is to be met with. It deserves to be remarked that in this last country they fill up the openings between the stones with mud, a practice quite unnecessary, and not admissible in Canada, where the winter frosts would swell the mud and throw down the wall or crumble it to pieces. Stone fences possess greater durability and security than other kinds to recommend them. Cattle will not attempt to leap a stone fence when properly capped, though not near so high as a wooden one—and they never attempt to throw down a stone wall, although some are exceedingly dexterous in pitching down what is called a log fence, or one made of wood. The price at which stone fences can be built in this country, will vary with the price of labour the situation of the place, and the nature and propinquity of the stones; but it ought to be kept in mind that while collecting the stones off the land to build his fences, the farmer is at the same time making a valuable improvement by clearing the surface of one of the worst impediments to tillage, and redeeming a portion of soil, perhaps of the best quality, (for the best soils abound often with stones) which would otherwise be unavailable for him. From the same intelligent agriculturalist before mentioned, I understand where stones are plenty on the surface of the ground a complete, double faced stone fence 5 feet high including capping—can be built for from 8s. to 10s. per rood French measure—nearly 19 feet English, which includes the collecting the materials, building and all other expences. And it ought to be remembered that such a fence if properly made at first will stand for many years without sub-