

CULTIVATION OF WHEAT IN ENGLAND.

In England wheat is not often cultivated by good farmers without the application of lime. We believe lime is as necessary for this crop in Canada as in any country, and would be productive of as much benefit to the crop. The most approved mode of cultivating wheat in England at present is in drills, which are regularly hoed once or twice, and all grass and weeds completely removed from the crop. Sowing in drills always insures a well pulverized and clean state of the soil previous to sowing, because otherwise the seed cannot be sown in drills. If it be admitted that a crop of wheat, sown in drills, and kept perfectly clean of grass and weeds, with a free circulation of air, by means of drills through the growing crop, will be likely to produce a larger return and better grain, than a crop sown broadcast where grass and weeds may grow, why not cultivate in drills? If it is not an object worthy the attention of the farmer to prevent the growth of any plant with wheat except itself, we know not what may be worthy his attention. The expense of hoeing is objected to this mode of cultivation. We say in reply, that one or two bushels per acre will pay the expense of one or two hoeings when men are accustomed to the work, and one hoeing would be sufficient. We know not any matter more deserving the attention of the farmer, than the checking or removal of weeds from the arable lands, and by no means can they be so effectually removed from corn crops, as when they are sown in drills. Though we state this as a general principle applicable to cultivated crops, we admit, nevertheless, that no grain crop except wheat, can under present circumstances of high wages and low prices of produce, be cultivated in drills. Barley perhaps might pay, but as we would recommend the seeding down for grass with this crop and with oats, neither could conveniently be sown in drills. Peas are a crop that we would rejoice to see cultivated in drills, wherever the soil was in a state likely to produce a large quantity of weeds with the pea crop. In three-fourths of the growing peas we have seen for the last few years, it was almost impossible to distinguish what sort of crop was cultivated, in consequence of the great quantity of weeds of all descriptions, particularly thistles, that were growing with the peas. Peas cannot be weeded unless sown in drills, because the plants when a little grown, fasten themselves to every other plant growing near them; the consequence is, that the weeds remain and mature their seeds, and scatter them over the soil before the peas are ripe or cut. Peas are an excellent crop to prepare land for other crops, but not if a large quantity of weeds are allowed to grow and ripen with them and sow their seeds on the soil. We object to every crop that is not cultivated in such a manner, as to permit the removal and destruction of weeds, before they mature their seeds.—Every good farmer must be of the same opinion. Beans, we conceive, would be a profitable crop to cultivate in the English fashion. In Canada East they succeed well, where properly managed, and we cannot understand why they should not succeed in Western Canada. They are considered the best preparing crop for wheat, and the land must be clean if they are managed properly. Some years they are inclined to run

to stalk. Where this is the case, a few inches of the extreme top should be cut off with a scythe or other instrument, and this would check the growth of straw and tend to ripen the grain.—Beans are generally a fair price in England, and would pay for exporting to that country. The cultivation of hemp and flax should also be introduced as articles for exportation both in seed and fibre. The feeding of cattle and the produce of the dairy, are objects well deserving the attention of the farmer, provided the Legislature will do what is necessary for their protection and encouragement. The land that is laid down in grass with the necessary fertility, will always be in a profitable state, because it will be constantly in a state fit to produce any crop that is required. Nothing can be more beautiful in country scenery, than green and fertile fields, producing grass unmixed with noxious weeds. On the contrary, it is any thing but agreeable to see poor crops full of weeds, and the roads and fences in every direction, fringed with a luxuriant growth of pernicious weeds, seeding the country for a new and increased produce of the same description. Uncultivated spots of the most fertile land, is also sure to be occupied on every farm, with a crop of weeds of large growth. We lose all patience when we see the country, in every direction, disfigured by them, and the best qualities of the soil extracted from it by these strong and vigorous plants. Cultivated plants are unable to compete for their food, with neighbours that have so much larger and stronger roots in the soil, and hence, in proportion to the size and strength of weeds, is the weakness and poverty of the cultivated crop in which they are allowed to grow. We would observe, in conclusion, that with regard to the cultivation of wheat in Canada West, we do not recommend any change in the mode of cultivation, to those farmers who already raise clean and abundant crops, free from rust and the ravages of vermin. We are also aware, that in new lands and those that are not perfectly cleared, drilling crops are out of the question. We only recommend new modes of cultivation to those who do not, by their present system, raise clean and abundant crops of wheat. To all such we do recommend a change, which we hope they will find beneficial. The free circulation of air through the growing crop, that can only be obtained by drilling, is of great benefit in preventing disease; and the stirring of the soil by hoeing between the drills, greatly promotes the growth of the crop, and checks the ravages of vermin, who generally lie concealed about the roots of the crop, and the grass and weeds that may be permitted to grow with it.

From our residence being in Canada East, and in the centre of that part of the Province where the failure of the wheat crop has produced such disastrous consequences to the farmer, we have perhaps had our attention too much occupied by our own section of the country, and our observations accordingly had more particular reference to these consequences and the necessity for their remedy, than may be satisfactory to our Subscribers in Western Canada, who have not, unfortunately for themselves, been plagued with the wheat fly and the destruction of the wheat crops. We hope our Subscribers in Western Canada, will however pardon us for occupying so much of

THE CULTIVATOR on this subject. We are confident, that as they are favoured with abundant crops of wheat, that are safe from the ravages of insects, they will condole with their brother farmers of this part of the Province, and be anxious that a remedy should be provided, if possible, that would either enable the farmers of Eastern Canada again to grow wheat, or substitute some other crops that would make up to them for the loss of wheat. If our friends in Canada West are fortunate and successful with their crops, they will, we are sure, be generous enough not to find fault with us for giving so much of our attention to a subject that greatly reduces the products of agriculture in Canada East. We stated before, that the loss sustained by farmers in Eastern Canada, for the last eight years, by the failure of wheat, was not less than four or five millions of pounds currency, and we believe we did not exaggerate; no wonder, therefore, that we should feel the subject to be of the greatest consequence to us, and constantly urge the necessity for inquiry into the matter, in order that some measures should be adopted, to save the farmers here from the ruinous consequences of the loss of their principal crop.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURE.

From our own Correspondent.

LONDON, August 3rd, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR,

Although detailed accounts of the recent meetings of the principal Agricultural Societies of Great Britain, will doubtless have reached you ere this, yet conformably to your wishes, I send you herewith a condensed account of the proceedings, suited to your limited space, accompanied by such passing remarks and reflections as occur to me, and which I trust will prove interesting to your readers.

The annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, was held this year under very favourable circumstances. The splendor and magnificence of the meeting and its general arrangements, as well as the large concourse of company in attendance, mark clearly the high state of prosperity to which the Society has now attained. The demonstration affords abundant evidence that the farmers of England are actuated by a laudable spirit of emulation, and that they have successfully determined to keep pace with the improving spirit of the age. The advancement of agriculture is a knowledge which has been justly considered one of primary importance even in the earliest ages of antiquity, and in our own not only essential to existence, but the nursing mother of those arts of civilization which have flourished and filled Europe with their benefits. The prosperity of England (and indeed of every country), is intimately connected with the successful prosecution of agricultural pursuits; for they supply the basis of our home trade, and find employment for the greater part of our population. An amazing deal has of late been done towards the improvement of agriculture; it has been reduced to some certain and uniform principles; philosophy has laboured to develop its capabilities; the nature of soils and the laws of vegetation have been attentively studied and carefully explained; many useful experi-