

Our humble attempts to light this superincumbent cloud of darkness as far as in us lies, through the medium of the *Cultivator*, has not been overlooked in his short summary; and we take this occasion to express our acknowledgment for the following flattering remarks relative to our paper,—"and so little, he continues, has a taste for either useful or ornamental Literature been hitherto encouraged or cultivated, that Canadian publications are yet almost unknown, if we except a volume or two of legal reference, a treatise on Canadian Agriculture, one or two works on our Topography and Statistics, two or three Magazine and Reviews, and, that lately commenced meritorious Agricultural Periodical, THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR, to which, every true British Canadian Farmer is found to give every encouragement and support. He then concludes his very able discourse by enlarging on the objects and purpose of the Association and the prospect of their ultimate realization.

In calling the attention of our readers to the formation of the above ASSOCIATION, and to the few remarks we have here made, we would strenuously urge on every one to endeavour by his individual influence and exertions, to form a similar Association in his own immediate neighbourhood; to render himself, as it were, a focus, round which, his friends and neighbours impelled by his example, and persuaded by his representations, shall gradually concentrate. Let it not be imagined that the scheme is either useless or impracticable. Some may be deterred by reason of the *hard* name of the thing; but hear what Major Lachlan includes among the details of his Association:—"every thing partaking of the character of statistics, such as sketches of the settlement and progressive improvement of any township, town or village; descriptions of the original features of the country and anecdotes of the first settlers, enumerations of the various crops, the quantities raised, the prices obtained; &c.; notices of the wind and weather, personal memoir; local historical and chronological sketches; topographical or descriptive notes of the features of any part of the Province or District; details regarding the state of agriculture, trade or manufactures—and accounts of new or improved mechanical or other inventions and implements of husbandry in particular. Certainly to some one or more of these subjects, every one is more or less competent, and if each would devote his leisure to the elucidation of those subjects for which he considers himself best qualified, and would urge others to do the same on their parts, what a mass of valuable, and agreeable information might be collected in every neighbourhood. *Parva scintilla fit magnum incendium*. The little spark thus lighted would sooner or later raise a flame of emulation throughout the Province, and Major Lachlan in some one of his future discourses would compare our Canada to the lucid sun with only two here and there a darksome spot or two.—STRIVE AND SUCCEED.—*Pub.*

EXTENSIVE USE OF OXEN.—At the last New-Haven, County Agricultural Society's Fair, there were no less than 1,026 oxen exhibited upon the ground. They were paraded, in 513 yokes, in the form of a hollow square, in a beautiful green in the shape of a parallelogram of 54 by 20 rods, surrounded by double rows of magnificent firs. When thus arranged they covered a space equal to 11 miles in length. Such a sight was truly worth seeing, and we think should teach those farmers who use horses exclusively for farm purposes that they would find their interest in substituting, in part, oxen or mules in their stead. *Con. Farmer*

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

The month of January was, perhaps, the finest that has ever been experienced in this climate. With the exception of a few days, the weather was as fine as we could expect it to be in April, and most of the snow had disappeared from the fields except close to the fences. We do not think this sort of weather the best for Canada, on the contrary, we would wish to see our lands well covered with snow the first of December, and retain that covering to near the first of April. What we understand as a true Canadian winter, will always be found the best and most convenient for us. Thaws in winter injure our means of communication, and our lands are more exposed to severe frost, which is never found to benefit those that are in grass or sown with wheat in the fall. A moderate winter is, however, favourable for the poor, as they do not require so much food, clothing, or fire, of a fine winter, as in one that is very cold. On the 5th Instant, the weather changed to cold, and we have had some severe stormy days, to remind us that the Canadian winter is not yet over, and it is quite possible we shall have a cold day in this and the next month, for every fine day we had in January. Though there is not any great encouragement for farmers at present, yet, as we hope for better times, it is our duty to do all in our power to promote the improvement of agriculture after the example of our fatherland. The making and collecting of manure is the most general work of good farmers at this season. A large supply of this article is essential in any and all improved systems of husbandry. We have made the following selection from Mr. Hannam's Prize Essay to the Netherby Agricultural Society, on manure:—"If we produce a crop of vegetables upon a fertile soil, i. e. one containing the matters required by the plant—that crop takes away from the soil some proportion of that *pabulum* which (we have shown) is necessary to render a soil capable of maintaining vegetable life. If this crop is succeeded by a series, it is obvious that the soil becomes more and more exhausted of these nutritive matters and consequently becomes less and less fertile. Common observation proves the truth of these positions. The use of manure, therefore, is to afford the growing plant a fresh supply of that food which preceding crops have consumed, or which the soil does not contain. If, then, this be the use of manure, if one object of its application be to prevent a decrease in the fertility of the soil it is obvious that it may be applied to another object of still more importance, viz., to increase the fertility of the soil. Thus, if by application to a soil of those matters, which one crop has taken away, we restore it to its original condition, and render it capable of yielding another crop equal to the first, it is evident that by returning to a soil more than the preceding crop has taken away, we improve its original condition, and make it capable of producing still more. "Nothing," said an ancient philosopher, "is more grateful than the earth," and if we make it a principle to return in the shape of manure, more of the matters nutritive to vegetables than we have carried away in the crop, she will vie with us in generosity." This theory of manure is a perfectly correct one. Unless we return constantly to the soil, what will be amply sufficient to replace what a crop takes away, our lands must become exhausted and incapable of yield-

ing profitable crops. Perfect draining is not less necessary for to produce profitable crops than manure. Indeed manure is useless on land that is not sufficiently drained. This fact we have always endeavoured to impress on the minds of our brother-farmers. In the British Isles it now precedes all other improvements of the soil. No improvement is attempted on land that is not drained. No lands would be more improved by draining than the stiff clay lands of Eastern Canada, that never can be profitably cultivated without it. These sort of soils become so saturated with moisture, that when they are dried by the sun, they are so hard as to render them unfit for the tender roots of plants. Plants cannot extend their roots or draw nourishment from a hard soil that is impervious to air and moisture. From what we have seen lately in recommendation of liquid manure, we would most strongly urge farmers to construct cisterns in their stables to collect all the urine of horses and cattle. During the winter months, cattle by being well littered with straw, most of the urine may be imbibed by the straw, but what would remain might run into the cistern. It would not be easy to keep the urine of a large stock in winter, when it could not be applied to the soil, but by littering the cattle well, and having the stables so constructed that no urine would be lost, it might be so managed that all the droppings of the stock might be preserved and carried to the fields. Liebig in his Agricultural Chemistry, says, that one pound weight of human urine will produce a pound of wheat, and if so it must be a most valuable manure. The large quantity of ammonia contained in urine is what makes it so powerful a manure. Few of our farmers have their stables so constructed as to collect the urine of their cattle. Indeed our own stables have this defect, but we expect they will not be long so.

Manure might be immensely increased by constructing proper cisterns and filling them with soil, and allowing this soil to be well saturated with urine, which might be annually emptied, and carried to the fields, and again filled. Compost heaps might also be formed, and when not frozen, they might be wet with the urine. The following mode of collecting materials for a manure heap, might be adopted by farmers who may have such materials. Place a layer, a foot in depth, of bog-stuff, as the foundation for a compost heap; over this a layer six or eight inches deep of road scrapings, or yard scrapings, then a layer of bog stuff, then a foot of rich earth, or that earth which accumulates at the side of drains, or head ridges—then eight inches of road or yard scrapings—bog-stuff, and earth as before, and saturate the whole with urine from the cistern. Lime, if it could be had, should be added in alternate layers with the other materials. The whole turned with the spade, and well incorporated, three or four weeks before using. This sort of compost would be very suitable for top dressing meadows in fall, or for summer follow. We cover our farm-yard annually with earth which we apply as top dressing. We have often recommended to farmers to take care of their ashes for manure, and not to sell one pound of it. We see every day, notwithstanding, carts going about the country, and collecting large quantities of ashes from the farmers for soap manufactures. According to Liebig, the ashes obtained from various kinds of trees, are of very unequal value for this purpose: those from oak-wood are the least, and those from beech the most serviceable. The ashes of oak-wood contain only traces of phosphates, (that is so valuable as a manure for corn,) those of beech the fifth part of their weight, and those of pine and fir from 9 to 15 per cent. Liebig says that with every 100 lbs. of the ashes of beech we supply a