

LETTERS ON CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

Practical Education in Agriculture.—Drainage Bill for Canada.—Agricultural Fairs and Gatherings.—Rearing of Improved Stock.—Improved Hay Making.

To the President and Members of the Board of Agriculture of Lower-Canada.
MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN.

I have undertaken to embody in a series of familiar letters, some practical remarks on Canadian Agriculture and Agricultural Improvement. I shall endeavour to aim at variety and comprehensiveness, rather than minute detail, which can be carried out elsewhere in a succession of short papers or treatises, taking up in succession those subjects which would appear to merit discussion. As my Readers proceed they will perhaps find these letters the more interesting; as they are written, *corrente calamo* without either study or pretension. And to begin :

In an early number of The Farmers' Journal for 1858-59, we read some remarks recommending to the farmers of this Country the practice prevalent in Britain, and it is, when it can be conveniently arranged, to send their sons to reside as pupils for a year or two with some Agriculturist of eminence, to complete their agricultural education, and in order that they may have an opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the mechanical and field operations necessary on a farm, with the best modes of reducing their acquired theoretical knowledge to usefulness, and adopting it into every day practice. A great amount of useful knowledge may be acquired from books by old and young; but all that is truly valuable is capable of being exemplified in every day practice, and will stand the test of repeated experiment,—uniformly determining in a satisfactory result. I would beg to refer my Readers to the few remarks in the Journal on this head, and I am sure they will forgive me for taking this liberty.

I am glad to find it announced, that it is in contemplation to introduce a Drainage Bill for Canada next session. The operation of such a measure would be attended with incalculable benefit. It is difficult to convince a farmer whose land is tolerably dry on the surface, that it is in reality poisoned by a superfluity of moisture, and that he is practically cheated out of the one half of the legitimate produce of his land. He will not believe that his grasses are inferior to what they might be, and that his crops are yellow, sickly and scanty from this cause alone. That though his soils may grow dry with midsummer, yet, in the early part of the year, they have continued unnecessarily and injuriously wet; that they have, in consequence, in many parts, baked hard and stiff—