

President. Mr. Dougall, will not be like the blacksmith, and think his task over for the year, though he tells you plainly you need not thank him for his last communication, and that it was written on compulsion, but that his name will very often appear in the *Agriculturist*; and I can assure you gentlemen, that his beautiful place, and the manner in which he cultivates it, furnishes him with highly beneficial and interesting information, (particularly on the subject of Horticulture which appears to be his hobby,) and it is to be hoped he will promulgate it upon honor.

In the next place I am not a practical farmer, therefore, what can I write that will edify that class? but the resolution says I must—so sans excuse.

Well then, gentlemen, it is my opinion that this portion of the Western District is much the best adapted for the dairy farmer. Observation has taught me that wheat hereabout is but a chance crop, and unless chemical science should point out some other way of dressing the different soils, it must be ruinous to that farmer who depends upon the growth of it; the land in this township is generally very flat, and although it is abundantly rich, it does not appear to be adapted for wheat; the winters, of late years in particular, have been much against the growth of fall wheat, and indeed they generally are, we have so little snow on this western point to protect it, what with the heat of the sun at mid-day and the frost at night, it is very often found in the spring not worth cumbering the ground, and ploughed up, and again in the summer when the wheat is about ripening, it is so apt to take the rust, that whole fields of the most beautiful wheat to all appearance is gone in almost no time; now on the contrary, the land, the climate, and everything is in favor of a dairy farm, stock can be raised here much cheaper than in any other part of the province, for grazing is generally good till after Christmas, and there is every facility now for getting the produce of the dairy to market, as that superb propeller *Earl Cathcart* will ply regularly during the summer between this and Montreal, and I hope before long to see more of her class navigating the same route, and believe, it would be profitable did the emigrants but know what a beautiful fertile country the Western District is. The dairy farmer would not only find it profitable to export butter and cheese, but even eggs might be worth sending to Montreal, as our hens here that are good for anything, lay all winter, and there are many other things which he might find more beneficial to export himself, than be subject to the eternal shaving of the western merchant. Pork, for instance; how often have I seen the farmer coming from 15 to 40 miles (and last winter up to the axle of his waggon in mud) with fat hogs weighing from 150 to 350 lbs., each obliged almost to go a begging, as it were, for a purchaser, perhaps get \$3 per 100 for the smallest; and if he is lucky enough to get a couple of shavers who are a little jealous which is doing the most business, one on each side of his waggon, they might bid up to \$3.50. How much would he have saved by staying at home, rendering his lard, packing his pork, and as he lives on the Lake shore, putting it on some vessel in the spring, for the Montreal market? Most of them can afford to wait for the proceeds, and it would pay them well. What quantities of pork a dairy farmer might make here without knowing how he came by it almost. There are his whey and buttermilk for his young pigs in summer; and as corn, and all other grain, except wheat, springs up almost spontaneously to feed with, the pork would spring up in the same manner, of course. But I am afraid many of our farmers are waiting, and have been for many years, for money to spring up in the same way, from the appearance of their homesteads and farms. In fact, gentlemen, with all their advantages, they cannot or will not raise a sufficiency of beef and mutton to supply the butchers, the contractor who furnishes the troops at this post having always to get about half his supplies in Michigan. "Oh!" say our farmers,—"we cannot afford to raise and feed cattle at the price he pays."—How do the Yankees in Michigan do it? for there are few prairies there, and there is a heavy duty against them. This is it. The Yankee farmer will do something, and raise something to sell for the money. If he cannot get as much as he wants, he will sell for what he can get, and hope for a better price next time. Now there are so many thousands dollars sent up here every year to maintain this garrison. Is it not the duty, not only of the farmer, but of every producing member of this society, to keep as many of those dollars in circulation among ourselves as possible, knowing that every cent carried over to the other side never has a chance to come back again? The Yankees want nothing from us but our money, and why should they? But our farmers, I am sorry to say—many of them—instead of procuring good stock, and raising a good breed of cattle, stick to the native breed, letting such calves as they don't want to breed (which is by far the greatest number) suck the cow about six weeks, using up what ought to be five dollars worth of milk, then travel twice as many miles to town, and sell it to the butchers for about 7s. 6d. or 10s. currency, at most, or otherwise peddle the quarters about town for what they can get. I am happy to say, however, there is beginning to be many honorable exceptions to this rule; and I hope there is a change coming over the spirit of the dream of the remainder, so that, ere long, they may all be on the list of honorable exceptions.

Gentlemen, I remain yours, &c.,

G. BULLOCH, Secretary.

Amherstburgh, 6th April, 1848.

A SKETCH OF SYSTEMATIC AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is the art of deriving from the earth the most valuable organic productions. He who exercises this art seeks to obtain profit by causing to grow, and by using, its animal and vegetable productions. The more considerable the grain derived, therefore, the better is the object accomplished. The most perfect agriculture is, evidently, that which produces by the application of labour, the largest and the most permanent profit in comparison with the means used. Systematic Agriculture ought, then, to teach us all the circumstances by means of which we may derive the most considerable profit by the practice of the art. Now there are three methods of teaching or learning the practice of Agriculture.

1. As an occupation by the manual exercise of it.
2. As an art.
3. As a science.

The skilful practice of Agriculture, as an occupation, is limited to the imitation of certain operations, and the observation of events and circumstances. It is nothing more, when thus pursued, than a simple mechanical art, for the practical farmer can only imitate and repeat the ordinary operations of Agriculture, occasionally modified by times and circumstances, and often, perhaps, without considering or ever knowing the motives by which he is governed.

The art of Agriculture is the realization of some ideal object. He who practices it has received from others, without considering the reasons on which it is founded, the idea of rule by which he proceeds. The skilful practice of an art consists, therefore, in the adoption of new ideas, in the study of new rules, and in judging the fitness of them being carried into practice. The science of Agriculture does not lay down any positive rules, but it develops the motives by which the best possible method of proceeding may be discovered and successfully pursued. In fact, the art executes some law given and received, but it is from science that law emanates.

Science alone can be of universal utility, embrace the whole extent of the subject, and enable us to derive the best execution of it under every possible circumstance. Every positive direction is applicable only to some determined case, and each case requires a special rule which science alone can supply. That system of Agriculture can only be called the most perfect which is the most reasonable—for these are synonymous terms.

The manual exercise and study of the art can never be useless to the Agriculturist who wishes to elevate it to the rank of a science, and to the mental consideration of which it is deserving. It will be advantageous to him to have the experience, the labour, and the energy which are necessary, in order that he may judge of the mechanical execution of various portions of it.

A purely practical Agriculturist is compelled to follow the rule which has been laid down for him, although it may not be wholly applicable to the particular case which presents itself. He cannot depart from it without adopting some other rule which may, perhaps, deviate entirely from the first.

This is the reason that so many Agriculturists, who have practised with success in other countries, and under other circumstances, on being removed elsewhere, have committed very deplorable blunders.

Thus, the man who has not studied the science of Agriculture, can make little use of books, or even the best of them; he knows not how to arrange the new ideas which they unfold, and he cannot follow them in their fullest extent. All that he dares to do is to read these books which have the closest relation with the circumstances in which he is placed.—*From Thaer's Agricultural Work.*

THE TURNIP.

The early flat turnip may be sown for early use in March or April—also in May or June for summer use, as those sown early become rather tough and stringy, and run up to seed in the latter part of the season. They may be sown broadcast or in drills, fifteen or sixteen inches apart, and thinned out to three or four inches distant in the row; and if the soil is good, light and mellow, they will thrive well, and afford a healthy and nourishing variety to other summer vegetables. The Flat Field turnip is the most suitable for fall and winter use, and should not be sown till the last of July or first of August, or still later; many prefer the 10th of August. In a favorable season they will do well if sown the last of August or first of September; they have indeed been found to be much sweeter and better in the southern part of this State than those sown