



Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturæ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. III. HALIFAX, N. S., JUNE, 1879. No. 27.

HALIFAX, 5th June, 1879.

Our space is occupied this month, for the most part, with articles on Sugar Beet Culture and Cattle Disease. We know that several farmers have devoted portions of their root fields to the Sugar Beet this year, by way of experiment. It is not to be expected that capitalists will erect a Beet Sugar Factory until our farmers are prepared to grow a sufficient quantity of beets to keep it going. On the other hand, our farmers will not engage in the culture on a large scale until the means of manufacture shall be beyond the stage of mere expectation. To put the matter in a nut-cracker, Beets are not grown because there is not a Sugar Factory, and there is not a Sugar Factory because Beets are not grown. Now we believe that it would be greatly to the interest of our Agriculturists to have the Sugar Beet industry introduced, and the simple mode which we propose for effecting this object is for our farmers to engage at once in the production of Sugar Beets for feeding purposes; as a feeding crop the Sugar Beet can be profitably grown. And it may be expected that when its culture for this purpose shall become general, capitalists will appear ready to buy up the roots for sugar making. We believe that in rich spots mangels are more productive as a feed crop than the White Sugar Beet, but on ordinary soils, and especially those of the poorer class, the advantage is on the side of the saccharine root.

Mr. Morrow again favours our readers with some interesting chapters from the

old Dutch Philosopher, Camper, on Cattle Disease.

Next month we hope to present our readers with an ample statement of returns from the various Counties of the condition of the Field Crops and Orchards. We would remind those obliging friends who have, in former years, favoured us with information of this kind, that a renewal of their attentions will be very acceptable. We have had many illustrations of the practical utility, to farmers and business men, of early, reliable information as to the actual condition and prospects of crops, the quantities likely to be produced, and other such matters affecting supply and prices, and we are consequently prepared to give up a large portion or all of our space to such communications in summer time.

LAST Saturday the Botanical Class of Dalhousie College, in their weekly excursion, met with an interesting plant, new to the Dominion, *Viola prunifolia*. This beautiful sweet-scented violet was found in the swamp behind the Three Mile Church, in small quantity. It had not been observed before farther north than Massachusetts. On the same day, at Prince's Lodge, a number of native English plants, now quite wild in that locality, were collected, including *Veronica Chamædrys*, *Aquilegia vulgaris*, *Crataegus Oxyacantha*, *Centurea nigra*, *Veronica officinalis*, also a number of garden plants.

Mr. Cameron, B. A., of Baddeck, has recently made a few interesting botanical

discoveries in Cape Breton, and has considerably sent roots to the Public Garden at Halifax, so that the Flora of the Island may be represented at the metropolis. In the list we find *Viola pubescens*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Calla palustris*, *Streptopus roseus*, *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, *Orobis spectabilis*.

HOW TO GROW THE SUGAR BEET.

CHARLES ALLISON, Esq., of Kempt, Q. C., in delivering the opening address of the South Queen's Agricultural Exhibition, held in October last, strongly recommended the cultivation of the Sugar Beet in the County, and, from time to time during the winter, we have placed before our readers the opinions of different writers on this subject. We are informed quite a number intend giving the Beet a trial, and the following from the *Scientific Farmer*, a leading American Agricultural Journal, no doubt will prove very useful:

"The beet is a plant which, to be profitably grown, requires a careful preparation of the land. The soil should be made deep by ploughing, be rendered friable by repeated stirrings, and the surface should be formed into a smooth seed bed. If testimony is to be believed, scarcely too much attention can be given to those preliminary operations. The