

OUR TABLE.

VIEWS OF CANADA AND THE COLONISTS: EMBRACING THE EXPERIENCE OF A RESIDENCE; VIEWS OF THE PRESENT STATE, PROGRESS, AND PROSPECTS OF THE COLONY; WITH DETAILED AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS. BY A FOUR YEARS' RESIDENT.

WE have very rarely seen a book so well adapted as the handsome little volume before us, to the particular end which the author had in view. It is the fruit of four years of experience and observation, candidly and clearly expressed, and will, if carefully read by the emigrant to this country, be of the greatest possible service to him. The author has entered into the heart of his subject, and, apparently determined to make the exposition of the truth his aim, he has suffered nothing to divert him from his course. He has "extenuated nothing, nor set down aught in malice," or without the fullest consideration.

Aware of the importance of this colony, and fully appreciating its capabilities, he has taken care to speak of it in no exaggerated terms of praise, but has given expression to carefully digested views of "things as they are," without being in any way biased in his judgment by the very favorable opinion he evidently entertains of it. His book is one, therefore, which we have no hesitation in recommending to the Canadian public, generally, and in particular to those who have, or expect to have, friends from the old country coming out to join them.

As a fair specimen as well of the style of the writer, as of the candour with which he has given expression to his opinions, we quote the following passage:

"In leaving the subject of education, one is led to make the remark, how singular it is, that, in a country so purely agricultural as Canada, which may fitly enough be compared to one great farm, the trades and professions being but the employed agents of the farmers, there is not in one of its educational institutions means provided for any instruction either in the theory or practice of agriculture." The obvious consequence is, that this important art suffers—and it is indeed far behind in Canada—and being more carried on at hap-hazard than otherwise, its legitimate dignity is greatly lost in mere drudgery, uninformed and prejudiced. People, whose circumstances will at all allow it, are led to give their sons what is termed a liberal education, which most frequently means, spending some years upon Latin and Greek, and their being able, in most cases, in after-life, to decline *pena*, and conjugate *amv*, instead of much more hon-

ourably, as well as interestingly, employing those most precious years to investigate the properties of the hidden wealth, which a bounteous Providence has scattered around them for their benefit and pleasure, and their country's prosperity—in its soils and appliances, plants, flowers, forests, rocks and minerals. Geology and agricultural chemistry, with their stores of wonders and wealth-producing facts, the ever-interesting and healthful details of rural husbandry, enlightened by science, are all as yet overlooked, where we might most expect they would hold prominent station. It may be, and every friend of Canada may well wish, that the day will arrive soon, when professorships of agriculture will be considered indispensable in the Universities; model farms become common in every district, and those elements be taught in the schools, which the future farmer will carry through life, to dignify and make honourable, as well as more prosperous, the occupation on which depends the permanent welfare of this country. We may then see farming, in a great measure, relieved from being so mere a drudgery, and the ambition which over-crowds the towns with unsuccessful lawyers, doctors, and shopkeepers, be more naturally and successfully directed to the pursuit of an enlightened agriculture, healthful and interesting, as it is calculated to be honourable and dignified, and on which so much of the future existence of the country, as either wealthy, happy, or great, most surely ultimately depends."

The above, it will be seen, treats of a subject which cannot be too prominently brought before the public, as it is one with which the prosperity of the Colony is intimately associated. Much has been said on the same subject by the able and enthusiastic Editor of the Canadian Agricultural Journal—hitherto, it is to be regretted, without effect. But surely there are none who at the present day will hesitate to acknowledge that the want here complained of is a very grievous one; and could the attention of the people and the Government be thoroughly attracted to it, it would not be long before a remedy was applied. In the meantime, as having a deep interest in the welfare of the Canadian people, we cordially thank the author for the forcible manner in which he has given expression to his views—confident as we are that their justice will be acknowledged by all enlightened and thinking men.

Accompanying the volume, which is very handsomely printed by Black of Edinburgh, there is a beautiful map of Canada, which must be of essential value to the traveller, as well to all who take an interest in Canadian matters. The author, for the pains he has taken, deserves the thanks of his fellow-Colonists,—for he is again a resident among us. We shall be glad to hear that his work is generally read, and we are satisfied that all who read it will join with us in recommending it to others.

* We believe that in the College at Chambly, there has recently been an important step taken towards the removal of this reproach. In that excellent institution, we are given to understand, agriculture is one of the branches in which the pupils are instructed.—E. L. G.