

love," and we are unwilling to relinquish it, so long as we are conscious that its mission is a good one, and its influence palpable and healthful. If we have one unselfish feeling stronger than another, it is to see our country improve; to see it become "great" in every sense;—great in the freedom of its institutions—in the purity of its morals—in the intelligence of its youth—in the superiority of its husbandry—and, as a consequence, great in its material wealth, and the envy of all for the prosperity, contentment, and general happiness of its people.

With these aspirations we begin another year's labours. We ask the renewed and more energetic assistance of *old* friends, and the hearty co-operation of as many *new* ones as may feel disposed to come up to our help. On the last page we have stated the terms on which we should be glad to receive the assistance of those who may have a few weeks at their disposal during the winter. The prize system was adopted last winter, with considerable success. We have made the prizes larger and more favourable this year. Let no one be discouraged by the notion that others will beat him. The number of persevering competitors will not, probably, be large; and we have made such provision for those who may fail to win a money prize, that they can hardly lose by their efforts to extend the circulation of the *Agriculturist*. Intending competitors should go to work at once. Copies of the present number, which is a fair specimen of those to succeed it, will be sent to any person requesting them.

We hope Agricultural Societies that have hitherto patronized us, will continue their favour; and that others will, this year, try the experiment of supplying their members with a copy of the *Agriculturist*, or some equally useful agricultural journal.

ANATOMY AND DISEASES OF THE HOG.

The hog is still an essential part of the farmer's stock, in most parts of Canada. We intend to give a somewhat detailed history of the animal, and of the several most noted breeds, in future numbers of the *Agriculturist*, collected from the best authorities. We give below a brief account of his *anatomy*, from that standard work, "Youatt and Martin on the Hog." It will be interesting to young farmers.

A very slight acquaintance with that complicated and beautiful structure which we term the animal economy, will be sufficient to convince us that any rational method of investigating or treating disease, must be founded upon an acquaintance with the general construction of the frame, the derangements and alterations to which it is liable, and a concise notion of the various systems or sets of organs of which the body is composed. Without this amount of knowledge it will be impossible correctly to interpret those signs of alteration of structure or function which constitute the symptoms of disease, and indicate its nature and seat.

If we would understand how to regulate the working of some complicated machine, we must not content ourselves with a mere cursory glance at its exterior, but closely inspect the different parts; make ourselves acquainted with their shape, situation, and arrangement; inquire into the principles upon which the whole is constructed, its mode of action, and the offices which each part is destined to perform. Proceeding thus, we shall arrive at a knowledge of the best means of preserving it from injury, repairing any accident that may happen to it, and maintaining it in a fit state for the efficient discharge of the duties it was intended to perform.

The animal economy consists of parts or organs, differing from each other in structure and function, yet all so intimately connected together, and so mutually dependent upon