

cultural Science. It would not be supported." I would say in reply, that at such a position cannot be proved until the experiment has been tried. But to judge from the support that Victoria, Queen's and King's Colleges have received from the Agricultural community, we have little reason to apprehend loss on that score. What farmer would not rather send his son to a school expressly adapted to his wants, than to either of the above-mentioned institutions. Establish it on a liberal and comprehensive basis, and its success is certain. There is nothing that could give a greater impetus to Agricultural improvement, than that farmers generally be led to see not only that Agriculture is really a science, but that it is one of the most respectable and interesting character. "But," says an M. P., a gentleman of the long robe by the way, "I am not willing to divert the University endowment from its original purpose—the intentions of the donor I hold sacred; however, I have no objection that an Agricultural professorship should be established in the University, as many farmers seem anxious for it. But I don't think the original donor ever intended that so considerable a part of the endowment should be applied for the benefit of Agriculture as would be required to keep up an experimental farm with a professorship." Farmers of Canada, shall we allow ourselves to fall into that common error of being satisfied, or put off with a mere skeleton recognition of our claims. To call in question the intentions of the donor on such grounds is indeed, miserable quibbling. What! that because the Agricultural and Medical students do not pursue precisely the same course in their scientific researches, though both aim at becoming scientific men, they shall not be equally entitled to the benefits of the great Institution! It is an absurdity too gross to need refutation. "The University is emphatically the property of the people of Canada;" and unless it can be shown that advancement in the science of Agriculture is not as essential to the general prosperity of the Province, as advancement in the science of Medicine or Law, as agriculturists, we should never relinquish our claims.

The truth is that unless farmers look vigilantly after their own interests, they will be neglected as they have been hitherto. At the present time there is no class whose claims could be more justly advocated by the Canadian Statesman, none whose interests are so identified with the general interests of the country. Indeed the prosperity of every country seems to increase or languish in proportion to the attention and encouragement given to Agriculture. With the conviction that this view of the subject was foremost in the minds of our legislators, farmers have hitherto been too easily satisfied; they could not conceive it possible that a body of intelligent men could be influenced by such short sightedness, as would induce them to neglect that class of the community whose prosperity is so essential to the existence of every other. But so it is, and may be accounted for by the fact, that among 84 representatives, in our provincial House of Assembly, there are not ten members who depend upon agriculture for a livelihood, or as an immediate source of profit. Their sympathies are not in common with ours, they are unable to conceive the difficulties to be combated by the Farmer. In anticipating the probable character of future legislation in relation to agriculture, we may judge a little from the past.

In an Act for the encouragement of the science of Agriculture, &c., passed March 29th, 1845, will be found the following clauses:—That "a proportion of the District Bounty shall and may be granted to each County, Riding, or Township Agricultural Society, and paid to them by the District Society, in proportion to the money that each County, Riding, or Township Society shall have subscribed." In the 5th clause of the same Act—"And be it enacted, that when County, Riding, or Township Societies shall have been established in any District, the Treasurer of such County, Riding, or Township Societies, shall, on or before the first day of September in each year, pay over in current money of this Province the amount subscribed by the said Societies, into the hands of the Treasurer of the District," &c. The 8th clause reads as follows:—"And be it enacted, That if the Treasurer of any Township Society, shall on or before the first day of July in each and every year, pay any sum of money into the hands of the Treasurer of the District or County Societies, he shall be entitled to receive the same again so soon as the legislative grant shall have been received, with a proportion of the Legislative Grant equal to the amount so paid, or in proportion to what shall fall to their share upon an equal division being made in proportion to the sums paid in by the several Societies in the District or County." Such careless blundering as is exhibited above, is a disgrace to our Statute Book. By the last clause cited, any sum no matter how large, and no matter whether it be made up of the subscriptions of a Township Society, or a sum borrowed and handed over to the District Treasurer, in the name of such Society, the Government bounty can be claimed in proportion to the sum thus handed in. The contradiction and absurdity of the different times of payment, you have already alluded to.

Now have we any guaranty that the present Parliament will legislate any better for us? We have a guaranty that they will, it is this:—the increasing intelligence of the people. The farmers begin to see their just rights and will not tamely submit to be deprived of them. While writing, I observe the following in a late No. of the *Toronto Globe*, which is lying before me. After giving notice of a meeting for the formation of a Farmers' Club in York Township, he says: "We shall be glad to hear of a large turn-out; the farmers must meet together and devise means to advance their own interests or expect to find them neglected."

I cannot close this communication without observing that in my opinion a greater favour could not be conferred on the readers of the *Agriculturist* than carefully to collect at early periods such of the proceedings of Parliament as particularly interest the farmers of this country. The *Agriculturist*, not being the tool of any political party, is, I am inclined to think, the most proper medium for the discussion of such questions.

AGRICOLA.

Markham, March 17th, 1848.

"TAIL SICKNESS"—The tails of cattle sometimes increase in length to an inordinate degree. There is a popular belief that this elongation of the tail injuriously affects the animal's health. Youatt, Dick, and some other veterinarians, ridicule the idea of any disease being brought on by this cause. They admit, however, that letting blood by cutting off the tail, may in some cases afford relief to animals suffering from diseases brought on in various ways; but they hold that the same benefit would follow from taking the same quantity of blood from any other part. We presume that the amputation of an inch of the tail, has but little effect in any way, excepting that suggested by the writers referred to. Formerly it was the belief that the *palsy* in cattle was caused by "tail sickness," and superstitious people in some instances resorted to a charm to effect a cure. A piece of turf on which the animal had trodden was hung on a stake, accompanied by incubations, and a "black cat" was made to pass three times around the cow's body, "over the back and under the belly." If the cat struggled and scratched smartly, she generally got away by the time she had been round three times, and the necromancers were convinced that the bewitching devil had passed into her.—*Alb. Cult.*

BEST MANNER OF WINTERING STOCK.—At a late discussion in relation to the above subject, by the "North Stockbridge (Mass.) Farmers' Club," it was almost the unanimous opinion of the members, that it was best to feed wholly under cover, as being most economical, both as to saving of food and manure. Several farmers spoke of the benefit of feeding cows "rye mush" for a short time before they calve. It was also the general opinion that much loss was sustained by farmers, from their stock being allowed to get poor at the setting in of winter, and it was advised to guard against this by feeding well at first. It was thought that hay was generally cut too late. It was advised to feed stock a little at a time and often—five or six times in twenty-four hours.—*Cultivator.*

INFLUENCE OF THE PRESS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.—Mr. Payson in his address before the Essex county (Mass.) Agricultural Society, says—"To enumerate all the improvements which have been made in agriculture for the last half century, would take too much time. One, not only an improvement in itself, but the basis of all other improvements, must not be omitted, and that is the diffusion of agricultural knowledge by the newspaper press. Slowly, silently, almost by stealth, without the knowledge of the man himself, this mighty engine undermines old prejudices, and teaches the farmer that however independent he may be, he is not so as that the experience of others will not profit him. Most of us have become willing to seek directions even though they may be contained in a book. We are becoming more like liberal, freeborn and aspiring men."

In relation to the same subject, Mr. I. S. Hitchcock, in his address before the Oneida county (N. Y.) society, observes—"A medium of communication between farmers was found to be indispensable to the advancement of their interests, and the periodical agricultural press was established. That agricultural journals are among the most decided, and least expensive means of promoting agriculture, no one who has been favoured with their perusal for any length of time, will pretend to deny. While their influence has been highly beneficial, they have injured no one, and since their utility has been fully tested by experience, that farmer is guilty of an unpardonable inattention to his true interests who neglects to provide himself with a well conducted Journal of this kind. I am aware there is a prejudice against what some are pleased to call book-farming. And what is this book-farming in relation to which such unfounded and untenable prejudices prevail? Farmers communicate to each other the results of their experience in raising horses, cattle, &c. The results are committed to paper, go through the press and become a book, and those who choose to be aided by the experience of others, as those detailed, are guilty of book-farming."—*Albany Cultivator.*