

where agriculturists put down every item of expense under its appropriate head, and keep books on as correct principles as does the merchant, it is recognised as an invariable rule, that unless beef fetch double of flour, the occupier should break up his grass lands and bring them under tillage. The relation in price between these two produces a perpetual oscillation between pasturage and tillage, and determines the farmer in the destination of his fields. He tills more when bread rises above, and less when it descends below its proper level.

I have been at the more pains to set this proposition in a plain light, because of its vital importance connected with our present condition and future prospects. The opinion has been long popular, that the province was fitted to be a pastoral rather than an agricultural country; and this has been received without much examination and gained an almost universal assent. It has not failed to produce a strong effect on rural industry, and to create a corresponding bias towards the hay culture. On this account our finest lands have been laid down to grass, and our marshes, which under the French were fruitful of corn, and were alternately under fallow and wheat, have ceased to be considered as arable, and been well nigh set apart for the exclusive support of live-stock. This practice has been one of the chief sources of the depression of our agriculture, and has served too long to perpetuate distress, embarrassment, and poverty. The very reverse of this favourite opinion will, I apprehend, turn out to be correct; namely, that this Province is much better calculated for agricultural than for pastoral purposes.

In corroboration of this novel sentiment, it may be stated that a cwt. of oatmeal or flour can be raised at less expense in Nova-Scotia than in Britain. To pave the way for our concurrence in this position, we may boldly refer to the comparative fertility of the two countries; and we can be justified on the best documentary evidence, if not to exalt our own above England, at least to set it on a footing of equality. Our acre will yield as much as theirs, if cultivated with like skill and capital. Should this be granted, the point at issue is no longer doubtful; because the burdens affecting land are here light and trivial compared with the taxation which the English farmers must bear. Tithes, poor rates, direct and indirect taxes jointly contribute to swell the charge of production and add to the first cost of their bread corn. In