



"Agriculture not only gives Riches to a Nation, but the only Riches she can call her own."

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THE subject we have selected for a leader, is one which is very imperfectly understood by the great mass of the people of this country; and it is also one upon which but few conductors of the press would feel free to fully expose their views for public criticism. The position we happen to occupy, prohibits silence on our part, when there is clearly a necessity for a candid and impartial illustration of the influences that have a prejudicial bearing upon the two great productive interests of the country—agriculture and manufactures. It is not our purpose at this time, to give a lengthy dissertation upon the rather abstruse subject of political economy, but we shall more especially confine our remarks to a few practical points, which we trust will receive the careful consideration of an enlightened public.

The late changes in the British Corn Laws has evidently seriously affected the wheat-growing interests of Canada; but it was one of those influences over which the colonists could exercise no controul, nor was it reasonable that their voice should be heard

in the Imperial Parliament, so long as a respectable portion of the farmers of Great Britain were willing to give the new measure a fair trial, and they—the colonists—were not called upon to contribute either directly or indirectly towards defraying the expenses of the Imperial Government. So satisfied are we upon this point, that we are prepared to hazard the opinion, that if the entire Canadian people, backed by the most favorable representatives from both branches of the Colonial Government, had petitioned the Imperial Parliament to continue the boon so gratuitously granted them by the passing of Sir Robert Peel's Corn Bill, that those representations and appeals would have been unavailing. Every sensible man who has given this subject a moment's serious reflection, must be of the opinion, that the Canadian farmers must adopt such measures as will enable them to successfully compete in the British markets with other grain-growing countries. The best policy that can be proposed to secure this object, is the speedy adoption of the most enlightened views of cultivation, as practiced in this and other agricultural countries.