

perity of the country greatly depends.—But few farmers' sons aspire to a better education than what they receive at the common schools in their own neighbourhood; and we are sorry to add, that there are scores of young men, who delight to be called tillers of the soil, within our own circle of acquaintance, who exhibit such an indifference for the acquisition of knowledge, that competent judges would very naturally infer that they were never within the walls of a school-room in their lives. If improvements in agriculture and the mechanical arts have progressed in this country, in a less ratio than in other civilised countries, the cause must be attributed to the defective educational institutions that have been in operation, and not to the want of natural capacity for receiving instruction, on the part of the junior farmers. They have been taught in the beaten track which their forefathers have so studiously travelled, and anything which bears the appearance of innovation upon former preconceived opinions or habits, is looked upon with a jealous eye; and hence it is that men of enterprise seldom accomplish much either for themselves or their country. Almost every man, rich or poor, appears to act as they care for little else than their own selfish interests. This evil will continue to exist until the public have better informed their minds in relation to the advantages that would result to mankind in general, were every individual well informed and in prospering circumstances. If the farming community desire to prosper, they must not fail to place a high standard upon the character of their common schools. Every youth who is preparing himself to take the place of the present race of farmers, should thoroughly make himself acquainted with the ordinary branches of common school education—orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, and geography; and although a thorough knowledge of the foregoing branches may enable a young man of sound mind and clear intellect to make a pretty good appearance when in public, and qualify him through his own future exertions for the transaction of business, still it does not follow that a farmer would not be benefited from a knowledge of the higher branches of the mathematics, of algebra, geometry, surveying, trigonometry, astronomy, geology, natural philosophy, and even rhetoric. Members of the learned professions, as they are called, are not disposed to neglect the study of any of the practical sciences, and we see no just reason why the farmer who daily toils in improving his own estate, should not be as intelligent in all practical matters, as the advocate, the clergyman, the merchant, or the judge.

As the evenings are now getting long, we shall have much time at our disposal for entering into a free and social converse with our subscribers upon every matter of detail that would affect their interests; and among the rest, we shall not

neglect to point out to them what must be done before any great and permanent change can take place in the circumstances of their common country. Whether the advice or suggestions be heeded or not, it will at least be of some consolation to us, that we have fearlessly, and without favor or reward, performed our duty as a public journalist. In the mean time, we would say, that you as well as ourselves, have public as well as private duties to perform; and among those that may be styled public, the fostering care and attention to the interests of the educational institutions stand foremost; and we trust that your cheerful support will be given to these nurseries of the rising generation, and that your sons and your daughters will become intelligent and universally esteemed for their love of literature and public spirit.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS OF THE CULTIVATOR.

As the year is nearly brought to a close, we embrace this opportunity to lay before the readers of the *Cultivator*, a brief outline of the manner in which we hope to see the paper in future conducted and supported. In reviewing the past, we behold a host of difficulties, which but few of our year, would have surmised; but why should we for a moment reflect upon the past, when the future appears as bright as a summer's sun to our view. Those of our friends who have borne like ourselves, the heat and burdens of the day, in sustaining the *Cultivator* to its present standing, will be kind enough to receive from us our sincere and hearty thanks for their kind offices; and as the work is beyond a doubt established upon a sound and permanent basis, we trust that none will relinquish their support, but rather aid in rallying their neighbors to the standard of agricultural improvement, by obtaining their support to the only magazine in Western Canada that is exclusively devoted to the agricultural interests. As an evidence that we are not selfish in our demands upon the public, we propose to give full value for every farthing received. Instead of increasing the price, we shall reduce it to Societies and Clubs. To prevent any mistake, in future, we most anxiously solicit each of our subscribers to carefully read the following plan of operations a number of times: The second series of the *Cultivator* will commence in January, 1845, each number containing thirty-two pages on a sheet a size larger than the one formerly used. Each monthly number will be invariably issued on the first day of each month. The terms for a single copy will be as formerly, one dollar exclusive of postage. As an indulgence for farmers to club, to get the paper at reduced rates, we offer the following:—Eight copies for five dollars; twenty copies for ten dollars. When the papers are supplied at the reduced rates, they will be invariably sent to the address of the party ordering them; but

to accommodate parties or clubs as much as possible, when the number of copies ordered are to be sent to different post offices, we shall feel a pleasure in directing all the copies that are to be sent to each post office, to the address of any gentleman that may be named, by the party ordering them. We trust that it will be well understood that no list of individual subscribers will be kept but those who pay their dollar subscriptions.

No credit in future will be given, the terms being so low, that exceptions to this rule is impracticable. All remittances are expected to be free of postage to the publisher.

It is truly desirable to make the *Cultivator* a correct record of Canadian agricultural improvement; and this object can best be accomplished by aiding the editor in his arduous enterprise—we mean that to further the work to the greatest possible extent, that such of the Canadian farmers as are capable of writing for the press, should aid us with their contributions. It is not to be expected that we can afford to pay contributors to our journal, as is the practice in old countries, but to indemnify such as may favour us with useful practical contributions upon agriculture, we shall make it a standing rule to send a free copy to each correspondent, and pay the postage upon the correspondence ourselves.

Agricultural societies are especially invited to exert their influence in circulating the *Cultivator*. We advise each of our present subscribers to get their paper at the commencement of the year through an agricultural society. We hope the plan will be generally practical by agricultural societies, of furnishing each member of their associations with the *British American Cultivator*, and then as it will be ably supported, it will be proportionably ably conducted.

The present circulation is between 4000 and 5000 copies, and at the end of the year we shall open a new list and shall commence a new series of volumes without a single subscriber; we flatter ourselves, however, that a mighty general movement will be made by the present subscribers to increase the list to 10,000, and we have confidence that that number may be circulated with a very little effort, if it only be taken up in a spirited manner.

HOME DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

The Annual Show of the District Agricultural Society was held on the 9th ult., near the new gaol; and, we are sorry to say, was one of the worst exhibitions of stock that we have ever witnessed in Toronto. There were, nevertheless, a few specimens of animals on the ground, that could scarcely be excelled in this or any other country. A thorough bred Durham bull, owned by the Hon. J. H. Dunn,—a thorough bred North Devon bull, the property of Richard Gapper, Esq.; and a thorough bred Durham bull, the property