

ada, on a scale commensurate with its importance, would be of signal benefit to the Province under its present circumstances, Mr. Brown did me the honor of requesting me to investigate the subject in detail, with the view of bringing it under the notice of farmers throughout the country, in the event of the result of the inquiry proving satisfactory. I have, with the consent of the Council, taken the liberty of laying my observations, in the first instance, before the Society, hoping thereby at once to elicit some further valuable information on the subject, and to obtain the benefit of your verdict as to the propriety of directing public attention to it.

This is by no means the first time, as you are all probably aware, that these interesting Plants have been brought under notice in this Province. For upwards of five years they have been cultivated with more or less success in the neighbouring States, chiefly, however, in an experimental manner, and on a small scale ; and during last year, patches of the Sorgho, or Chinese Sugar Cane, were grown by some enterprising farmers in this neighbourhood with fair success and encouraging results, considering the rudeness of the apparatus employed, and the general want of information on the subject. The inducements to continued and extended operations are at the present time vastly more powerful than ever before in the history of the Province. Circumstances seem to conspire to point to this enterprise as an important means of retrieving somewhat of our national prosperity. The continued and most disheartening failures, during the past two successive years, in our wheat crops, to whatever cause this may be attributable—the increasing demand for Sugar, Molasses and Syrups, now no longer to be regarded as luxuries, but absolute necessities of life—the rapid and alarming decline in the yield of Sugar in the West Indies, Brazils and the Southern States, and consequent rise in the prices—the expediency, (rendered but too manifest by the commercial crisis through which we are now passing), of restricting to the utmost the drain of money from the Province—and last, most powerful of all, the operation of our new Tariff in virtually shutting us out from our accustomed markets in New York and Boston. Such a combination of circumstances cannot fail to secure a hearty welcome and a fair trial to a Sugar-bearing Plant, which appears capable of immediate acclimation in Canada, and promises, even were it only partially, to afford a supply within ourselves.

During the present year, in anticipation of the enhanced price of Sugar, the farmers in all parts of the country are devoting an increased amount of attention to the manufacture of Maple Sugar, but this product must obviously be available to a very limited extent as a substitute for the article to which we are accustomed. In various parts of the country, chiefly in the counties of Norfolk and Lincoln, farmers are already this season preparing to cultivate the Chinese Sugar Cane. But it is to be feared that, from want of proper information—from forming too sanguine anticipations—and from omit-