

THE CULTIVATOR.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1, 1842.

To the Farmers of British North America:

At the earnest solicitation of Mr. EDMONDSON, Proprietor of "THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR," I have been induced to undertake a share in the conduct of this paper for the present, and as my ideas on subjects connected with AGRICULTURE, are already very generally known in this country, perhaps there is no necessity that I should enter into a very particular explanation of them, on the present occasion. I shall, however, submit a few observations for the consideration of the Subscribers to the CULTIVATOR.

For several years of my residence in Canada, it has been a source of unceasing regret, that of the many publications in this country, *not one* was exclusively devoted to the subject of AGRICULTURE, that is the *sole* dependence of nine-tenths of our inhabitants. It would be strange, indeed, if the various interests of Agriculture in British America, would not have furnished abundant matter, to fill constantly, the columns of the largest paper that is published in the country. Farmers ought to be perfectly aware from experience, that their interests require to be urged upon the notice of their Governors and Legislatures, as well as the interests of other classes, and certainly hitherto, these interests did not receive any more attention from the circumstance that they belonged to the class that constituted the vast majority of the British American community. I humbly conceive now, as I always have done, that no other interests in British America, deserve more attention from all those who really desire to promote the general prosperity of this naturally fine country, than the interests of Agriculture. I cannot see upon what grounds it is expected that this country can improve and flourish without a prosperous state of her Agriculture. And if this opinion be correct, it should be the first and chief object of attention, with those who have it in their power, to promote by every fair and practicable means, its improvement and prosperity. It will be for "THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR," to become the medium for suggesting respectfully, such improvements and encouragements, as, if adopted, would be likely to insure a prosperous state of our Agriculture, without doing injustice to any other class.

It is amazing that other classes, whose interests are fenced in on every side by protecting laws, should take immediate alarm, if the Agricultural Class should ask for encouragement and protection. They instantly cry out against them that they want to secure a monopoly, and extravagantly high prices. I never would wish to see extravagantly high prices, but I would wish *remunerating* prices, in order to secure the advance of improvement, by the safe and profitable investment of capital in clearing and

properly cultivating the wilds of British America. Adam Smith says: — "High prices and plenty are prosperity, low prices and want are misery." I think there would not be much difficulty to prove the truth of this proposition in Canada. It ought to be remembered, that of more than one million that constitute the present population of Canada, not over a tenth, or a little more than one hundred thousand are purchasers of Agricultural produce for their own food. Hence it would appear, that the essential interests of nine hundred thousand are sacrificed, or materially injured, for a trifling benefit, in low prices, to one hundred thousand souls.

It is useless to expect that capital will be invested in Agricultural improvement, unless there is some reasonable prospect of safety and remuneration. It is far want of this safety and profit to the capitalist, that our emigrants pass through Canada to the United States. There is abundance of employment for many more emigrants than ever come to this country, if we had capital to pay for work, and if we had prices that would remunerate, money would not be wanted. These are plain facts that are well known, though no remedy ever was attempted. In the columns of THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR, the interests of Agriculture shall be strongly, but honestly advocated on fair principles, towards all other classes. It will be impossible to advance the prosperity of Agriculturists, without promoting in the same degree, the interests of almost every other individual that compose this community, except those who derive their income from another country.—The farmers of this country will not hoard money—they will expend it for some useful or necessary purpose as surely as it comes into their hands. Thus the money they receive for their produce, passes again, directly or indirectly, into the hands from which it comes to them—and we must suppose the Merchant and Tradesman to profit in proportion to the amount of goods which they can sell annually, and the greater the amount of produce that is annually created from our land and labour, the larger will be the sales of the Merchant and Tradesman.

In preparing original matter, and in selecting from other publications, for THE CULTIVATOR, I shall guard against exaggerated statements, that would be calculated to lead into error; and I would respectfully suggest to all Contributors to this Periodical, to observe the utmost caution in reporting experiments, and the results obtained from them, to do so in that manner that will show clearly the expense incurred in every way, as well as the profit realized. A judicious system of practical and profitable husbandry is what we require here, and it will not answer any useful purpose to be told of expensive experiments and their results, that we never can hope to realize by the very best system of ordinary farming—so far as it shall rest with me, the columns of THE CULTIVATOR shall only contain useful and practical information and suggestions,

that will be possible for every farmer to adopt and practice, according as his situation and capital will admit of his doing so. All wild theory and extravagance, shall be excluded as useless and mischievous. I respectfully solicit from my brother-farmers of British America, their support to this Periodical, which can exist and be useful to them, only, by obtaining their patronage.—If my promise will have any influence with them, I pledge it freely, that if they support THE CULTIVATOR, every thing that is possible shall be done, to make it worthy of their patronage. A considerable expense must be incurred on this publication by the Proprietor, and of course it cannot live and prosper, unless the expenses are provided for by numerous Subscribers. If the farmers are of opinion that they do not want this publication, and that they may as well take the foreign Cultivator as one published in their own country, and by their own fellow-subject, it must of necessity be discontinued. If a preference is given to a foreign publication, a native one cannot live, and be profitable any more than Canadian Agricultural produce can be profitable to our farmers, while all descriptions of foreign agricultural produce is freely admitted in competition with it in our markets. I ask not, however, for favour or preference, if unworthy of either. Give a fair trial for one year, and if the result is not satisfactory to you, withdraw your Subscriptions, and let THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR be no more.

I have written this article in a hurry to be in time for the next number of THE CULTIVATOR, and beg you to excuse the plainness of the language and terms, I have made use of. I shall be more particular in future. I have only made a few selections for the present number.

I have the honour to be,
Very respectfully,
Your faithful servant,
WILLIAM EVANS.

Cote St. Paul,
20th January, 1842.

Colonization and Emigration.

Mr. Alison's late work on "THE PRINCIPLES OF POPULATION, and their CONNECTION WITH HUMAN HAPPINESS"—contains much interesting information. In his chapter on "COLONIZATION, and the RECIPROcity SYSTEM"—he shows by his tables, that about a third of the annual exports of British and Irish produce, is to British Colonies in all parts of the world. After giving these tables, he says:—

"These statistical details point to the future policy, and illustrate what is the real sheet anchor of the British Empire, as clearly as if the future, with its changes and chances, were by miraculous interposition laid open to our view. It evidently appears, from the rapid and prodigious growth of the commercial intercourse which we maintain with the British Colonies, compared with the stationary or declining condition of that which we enjoy with all the world, besides, that we possess in ourselves, and independent of foreign rivalry, jealousy, or competition, sources of wealth, prosperity, and grandeur, greater than ever yet was presented to any na-