

engage the attention or repay the toil of the studious and reflecting man.

This estimate of agriculture is, however, far from the truth; as the culture of the ground is one of the healthiest, noblest, most useful and independent of the various pursuits which engage the industry of the human family, so it opens a wide field for the exercise of the mental faculties and the application of varied knowledge, and affords many opportunities for the display of skill; it only requires to be studied as an art in a manner similar to other professions, and like them it would soon summon every intellectual power into full operation; let the standard of excellence in agricultural pursuits be but raised, and those who engage in them will be compelled to employ their mental faculties as well as their bodily powers, if they hope to succeed in their vocation.

Before the art of tilling the soil can attain that perfection of which there is every reason to believe it susceptible, many experiments must be tried, and many failures experienced, but for this a well trained mind is absolutely necessary; clearness of judgment, patient discrimination, forethought and attention are required for the trial of experiments, whether they issue successfully or otherwise. If failure be the result, a mind accustomed to reflection might be able to detect the cause and suggest a remedy; if success follow, the discovery would be intelligibly communicated to others. But when ignorance attempts to make experiments, success is more the result of chance than skill, and is productive of no benefit to others; while failure creates a foolish prejudice against the introduction of any novelty.

The time will come when the land must be more highly cultivated than it has been, for as population increases the means of subsistence must also be augmented; and if obstructions through ignorance are thrown in the way of improvement, it is easy to foresee that the prosperity of the country must be retarded.

It may also reasonably be apprehended that the slovenly modes of tillage in which ignorance takes delight, if persisted in, will eventually involve the farmers as a class in great embarrassment, and then the probable consequence will be an application to the Legislature for protection on behalf of the Agriculturists—in other words, a tax upon the whole community, in order that a living may be made from a negligent, unscientific and wasteful occupation of the soil, by the aid of a forced increase of price obtained for the article grown.

The necessity for improvement, and the evils to be apprehended from the neglect of it, alike call upon those who are possessors of the soil—that vast storehouse from which are drawn all the materials that contribute to the comfort of man—not to suffer any narrow prejudices to deter them from the culture of the mind—that magazine of spiritual treasures, that intellectual soil within, which will abundantly repay assiduous cultivation.

(For the Farmer's Manual.)

LETTERS OF "A FARMER."

LETTER XII.

IT is now sixty-one years since our forefathers first commenced clearing away the spruce trees about the Market Square in the City of St. John, to enable them to erect shanties to shelter them from the frequent and abundant rains of that season, where we have long since seen numerous stores and stately warehouses of all the finery and fashion of the old countries.

At that time there were two or three small buildings in Portland and a few houses and plantations of the original emigrants from Massachusetts along the River St. John in the County of Sunbury. For several successive years the travelling was chiefly by water or ice, and the privations of the inhabitants at that period might furnish matter for a volume unconnected with any other subject. But thirty years ago a Company having obtained a charter, built the steamboat General Smyth, and our sight was for the first time greeted with a vessel sailing against wind and current, which would carry a passenger from St. John to Fredericton, for five dollars, in one day. Our roads at that time began to be opened, and people began to think of having pleasure waggons. But with all the exertions of an influential company, shielded by their charter from competition in their exorbitant fare or charge, the boat did not clear her owners from the outlay, and proved to them an unprofitable speculation.

But for the last ten years three or four boats of superior speed and accommodation have been very profitably employed in carrying passengers between those places for two dollars each; and, instead of having one or two trips a week, we seldom pass a day or night without the arrival of a boat. And coaches pass in safety in various directions.

Such has been the gradual increase of population and business that it has borne up against a torrent of adversity repaired the wreck of most disastrous conflagrations, and succeeded beyond all former anticipations.

Now I would ask has Agriculture advanced in proportion with other pursuits—either as a science or profession? Candour compels me to confess that it has not. Many old farms have rather decreased in their productions and value for the last thirty years, and the system of management under all our advantages and improvements, are in very many cases inferior to that of our predecessors. The mind that is not aspiring is retrograding, and the inevitable consequence of persisting in such a course must be that of turning the rising generation under the wheel of Fortune, while the hardy and observing emigrants arriving and beholding our apathy and gross neglect of a valuable opportunity, step in and become lords of the soil.

Rise, my countrymen, and accept of the proffered boon! Accept of the advantages which a beneficent Providence have afforded you! Turn your attention from the gew-gaws of fashion to that sure source of wealth, contentment and independence, the cultivation of the soil.

Will you allow a good farm to grow poorer, while others improve poor land and make it productive from its own resources. Will you bring up your children to fashion rather than useful labor, and teach them to gather bubbles rather than potatoes?

Consider well the fate of speculative fancies for the last ten years and contrast its condition with that of the more substantial result of industrious and economical husbandry, and then acknowledge