

It would be alike presumptuous and futile to urge abstract principles on all communities alike. If the Lancashire masters of to-day were situated as their manufacturing predecessors were in 1785 and in 1787, they would again pay fees to some great barrister to plead at the bar of the House of Commons, as Erskine then did with a success which defeated the free-trade policy of the young Prime Minister Pitt; they would again, in protectionist joy, make holiday for a week, and burn Pitt in effigy in St. Ann's Square in Manchester, and break the windows of Pitt's adherents, for proposing, as he and the Tories did in 1787, to relax the Tariff under which French manufactures were excluded from Britain, and from British colonial markets.

The Author takes leave to refer in this place to his Agricultural writings, which are but briefly hinted at in this volume,—subjects more directly personal forming the theme of its pages. Having been bred in the toils and joys of agricultural and rural life, its associations have for him a charm beyond all other subjects of literature. Dullness departs from his pen when homesteads, harvest fields, ploughmen and ploughs, carts, horses, lowing cattle, dairy pastures, and well-stored barns, stand in his way for description. Over a space of ten years, between 1840 and 1851, he examined and described the various soils and customs of British agriculture in almost every parish of England, and in portions of Scotland and Ireland. Many thousands of readers followed him in his travels to enjoy the grassy meadow, the foot-path through the woods; the songs of birds, the fields of growing wheat, the wayside flowers, the village incidents and the quaint church-yards; the parks and mansions of the landed gentry; the cottage dwellings and farmery buildings of the tillers of the soil; their rent, tenure, wages, food, and customs of work; their vernacular tongue, wise sayings, rugged ballad-songs; their cricket matches on the common, and their bell-ringing,—the music of the bells rising over the breezy uplands to die away in shepherds' ears.

The Author hopes to gather friendly readers for his travels in Canada. While introducing himself with this book through city, town, and township, he will endeavour to become acquainted with the varying soils, modes of culture, relations of culture to climate, to markets, to natural resources of the district, and to the ameliorative changes already effected or likely to be accomplished. When he has become familiar with Upper and Lower Canada, he may—other circumstances being favourable—originate and edit a CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST, which will invite to its pages intelligent and experienced farmers, to interchange facts with one another, and which will at the same time convey to the Old Country such exact information as may induce thrifty families possessed of capital, to seek this noble Province as their future home.