

animals of whatever size, should be well bred, and of a good form, suitable for their several uses.

In the future numbers of this periodical we shall give selections from the best authors on the most approved methods of improving breeds of cattle, sheep and swine; the modes of feeding, &c.: the management of the dairy—and the utensils necessary for it.

We have already stated to our friends and subscribers, that party politics shall be excluded from this Journal. We shall, however, constantly endeavour to show the great advantages which the inhabitants of this colony, and the Agricultural class in particular, may derive from British connection, from emigration to this country, and from the introduction of British capital. No colony of Britain has it in its power to derive so much advantage from its connection with England, as British North America. We possess almost a boundless extent of the very best of land, that only requires the application of capital, labour, and skill, to make it produce what will always find a ready market in the British Isles. We may obtain from the Mother country, capital, labour, and skill, and we can repay her by what these will produce, and with the surplus, we can purchase her manufactures. We are certainly highly favoured, if we could only see and understand our true position, and make the most judicious use of the advantages that are at our disposal.

We further promise our friends and subscribers that we shall not often trouble them with the dry subject of Political Economy, though we are far from supposing it a useless subject of consideration. Treatises on Political Economy, have produced much good, notwithstanding they may have advanced propositions that it would be difficult to demonstrate clearly. They have, however, induced men to think of matters of the utmost consequence to mankind, which, perhaps, only for the writings of Political Economists, would never have occurred to their minds.

THE SEASON.—The winter commenced this year nearly a month sooner than usual, or about the 27th October. We had some few days subsequently, of fine open weather, that admitted of some ploughing being executed, but the snow did not altogether disappear. From the first of January, we had some very severe weather, and much snow has fallen. The River St. Lawrence is passable from Montreal to Laprairie. We very much regret to state that there is a large number of unemployed labourers at Lachine and Montreal, for several weeks past, and we have been assured that many of them are in great distress—it is only necessary to see the lodging places of some of them to ascertain this fact. The farmers cannot employ many labourers at this season of the year, and unless these poor men have very soon an opportunity of earning wages at public works, for their subsistence, they must suffer severe privations. Sufficient clothes, food, and

fuel, are indeed necessary to any thing like comfortable existence in Canada in winter, and we regret to say, many are ill supplied with these articles. We hope the period will soon arrive, when an improving and prosperous Agriculture will be more than capable to give employment to all labour that can be found in or brought to Canada. It is in that way it could be most usefully employed for every interest in the country.

We have seen a good address by a Mr. Wright before an Agricultural Society in the United States, last October, and as we conceive some of the observations of that gentleman are well deserving the attention of Canadian Agriculturists, we select a part:—

A question now presents itself—shall we stand still, content with the advantage we have gained? or rather, shall we retrograde? for standing still is no easy matter. Shall we follow that mode of farming which necessity has hitherto imposed upon us, now, when that necessity is removed? Is there no such thing for agriculture, and western agriculture in particular, as progression? Is our present style of farming the best for us to continue in—and will our continuance in it not be attended indeed with hazard? I am one of those who believe that progress is practicable and desirable; and that a continuance in the modes of husbandry now common in the West—in particular districts if not in the West as a whole—will be sooner or later attended with disaster, if not to ourselves, to the farms we cultivate, and to our property, into whose hands soever they may fall.

I know that there are many who have settled in the West under the impression that they have fixed on an exhaustless mine—that the soil is so bountiful and the climate so genial, that all we shall ever want will be produced with little care, and do as we may we can never exhaust its fecundity. There are others, who I rejoice to believe are few, who care for no further returns but enough upon which to live, and with whom food and clothing are the ultimatum of desire; yet in these particulars they are not the individuals who transcend. There are others too, who have been so long accustomed just to make the ends of the year meet, as they call it, by the hardest labor and the most rigid economy, that their ambition never rises above it; and when it is put into their power to do more than this, they sit down content with just the labour that brings it about. As to those latter classes of persons, it may be said that if the feasibility of accumulating property will not incite to it, I know of no motive which will.

There was a notion abroad, within my memory, in regard to the wheat-lands of western New York similar to the one entertained by some in relation to our own soil. Those same lands are now bending under the calls so often made upon them for wheat; and their agricultural papers are continually asking what is to be done to save their lands from absolutely running down. The notion that our soil is capable of exhaustion I believe to be the most preposterous one ever indulged. It is to suppose what was never true of any soil under heaven. It is a law of nature that every thing subjected to one particular use shall wear out; and the soil of the West can never be an exception. Observation must have convinced every observing man are this that wheat will deteriorate the best of our lands if sowed year after year, on the same ground. In my own observation I never have seen three successive crops raised on the same ground without a perceptible deterioration. Observation and science speak with but one voice.

An important constituent of wheat is potash. Without alkalis in the soil to supply it, wheat will never mature. It may grow up into a plant, but will never become a grain. The alkali must become soluble before it can become useful; and this is a process which goes on gradually. At the same time the amount of alkalis in any soil is limited. It may be large, but it is limited—and if the al-