



---

"Agriculture not only gives Riches to a Nation, but the only Riches she can call her own."

---

New Series.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1846.

Vol. II. No. 1.

---

### The Canadian Farmers' Prospects.

In presenting the first number of this volume of the *Cultivator* to our numerous readers, it may not be thought out of place to devote a few columns to the highly interesting and important topic which heads this article. This is probably the most golden year, that ever dawned upon this Province, for which every inhabitant, who has any interest at stake, ought to be thankful to the ALL-WISE CREATOR. Abundant crops and high prices are apt to make the thoughtless prodigal in their expenditure of money; and many are too apt to forget their former embarrassments, through the influences of bad harvests, and look only upon the present bright side of the picture. The produce of the soil, especially wheat, gathered the past harvest in Canada, is probably double that of any previous year; and owing to the failure of the wheat crop, and the potato epidemic on the Eastern Continent, there is every probability that the price of provisions will be higher between this and the ensuing harvest, than has been the case for the last twenty years. The enlightened statesmen of most of the European nations have, through their regard for the welfare of the industrious operatives and peasants, repealed or suspended for a time the statutes which restricted the admission of provisions in their ports, and by wise enactments are doing all in their power to mitigate the sufferings of the hal-starving poor. Notwithstanding

ing all the precautions that humane Governors can possibly observe, the misery and wretchedness which the poor will have to suffer, will be very great, owing to the alarming failure of the potato crop; and although former restrictions in trade may be erased from the statute-books, for the time being, still there can be no question but that the price of bread-stuffs and other provisions, will be exorbitantly high before another harvest.

The agriculturists of Canada have some advantages to gain and much to lose, from the failure of the crops, of which we have given a cursory description; and in our opinion the present gain from high prices, will come far short of atoning for the loss which will result from the changes which will be effected in the British tariff, before the lapse of six months. It may startle some of our sensitive readers, when we announce to them that the Canada Corn Bill, which was about doing so much good to this colony, will probably, by the arrival of the next steam-packet, be finally repealed, and free trade in bread stuffs be enacted in its stead. Nothing now appears more certain, than the immediate abolition of every restriction which prevents the admission of corn into the British ports. It is useless to utter a single complaint, inasmuch as the condition of the poor, and possibly the interests of the nation, require the repeal of those laws which, of themselves, have a tendency to place