

Your Committee, in support of this view, refer to the letters annexed to this Report, and especially to that of Mr. William Patton, of St. Thomas, who furnishes details respecting the produce derived from 50 arpents cultivated under his care, and adds: "I mention this to prove our land will produce equal to any land on the continent, if properly managed." Major Campbell, in his answer to the Committee, says:—"Generally speaking, the land in cultivation does not produce much more than a fourth of what it might do, were a better system introduced." "The present state of the Agricultural department in the Eastern Townships," says Mr. Gustin, "is, generally speaking, in a depressed and embarrassed condition, especially among the ordinary class of Farmers, or those dependent on the immediate avails of their labour to support their families and defray their annual expenses."

The principal cause of this state of things is, beyond a doubt, that which is pointed out in the letter of the Rev. Mr. Desaulniers, of the College of St. Hyacinthe:—"Up to the present time," says the learned professor, "the agricultural population of the country have exercised their industry on newly cleared lands, covered and enriched by the vegetable matter of the forests, and consequently possessing a lasting fertility acquired by ages of repose."

There is not, indeed, the shadow of a doubt that the astonishing fertility of the soil has given rise, with us, to the existing evil; with us, poverty has been caused by too great abundance; but, on the other hand, the lessons we have been taught by adversity will turn to our advantage. Such dear-bought experience will not soon be forgotten. People have already begun to perceive, as the Rev. Mr. Delage, of l'Islet, justly remarks, "That adversity makes one wiser; and that since the seasons have