

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

Vol. 1.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1842.

No. 10.



THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice, and every inquirer into nature to improve."—Dr. Johnson

Toronto, October, 1842.

WE consider it needless to occupy the columns of this Periodical with the details of the common business of practical agriculture, with which most farmers are perfectly well acquainted. In making selections we have endeavoured to give that information that is not accessible to the majority of our Subscribers. They have been generally made from *The Mark Lane Express*, *Farmers' Journal*, and the *Journal of the Royal English Agricultural Society*—hitherto from the first named paper more than any other, as it was only lately we had access to the others. We hope the selections we have made from *The Mark Lane Express* were judiciously chosen, and conveyed new and useful information to our Subscribers—very few of whom, we are well aware, had opportunities of seeing that excellent agricultural journal. From newly published works, that are not in the hands of many farmers in this country, we have also made selections. We do not see why farmers who desire it, should not have an opportunity of reading some of what is published lately on the science of agriculture; and to gratify this desire, we shall occasionally, submit selections from such works, that we hope will be found to possess some interest for most of our Subscribers. Such selections we conceive more suitable for an agricultural journal, than many which occupy the columns of papers published with this title. We trust that we are sufficiently acquainted with practical agriculture to enable us, in making selections, to distinguish between wild theory and such improvements as might be usefully and profitably introduced, and we shall, therefore, confine our selections and recommendations to what shall be useful and interesting to know, and possible and profitable to practice. We may not hitherto have given all our Subscribers perfect satisfaction, though we certainly have endeavoured to do so to the best of our judgment.

When we undertook to edit this Periodical, we stated to the Subscribers that, from practical experience in the old country and in Canada, for a period of 24 years, we were convinced that the most approved system of agriculture practiced in the British Isles, would be found, on trial, to be the most profitable to adopt in Canada—with the exception of cultivating turnips in the same

proportion—that it would not be prudent or necessary here with our present thin population. In this opinion we still continue to be firmly persuaded, and shall not alter it until the English system of agriculture has been fairly and fully tried and shall fail of success. In the cultivation of wheat in particular, that is considered the staple produce of Canada West, we take upon us to say, that the more closely the English approved mode of cultivating this grain is followed in general, the more certainty will there be of obtaining a good and profitable produce. We never expected, however, by any thing we could write or recommend, to induce persons who are already perfectly satisfied with their own present system of agriculture, to change any part of it for another system. To such persons we would say, by all means pursue the system you are accustomed to which produces you satisfactory results. If you obtain all you desire from your land and labour, go on and prosper in your own way, we do not presume to interfere with your practice of husbandry, provided you do not allow by your practice, pernicious weeds to grow and mature their seeds and scatter them far and wide over your neighbours' lands, who may wish to follow a different system of husbandry, that will not allow any plants to grow in their cultivated fields, but such as they have sown and planted in them. Farmers who may be prejudiced in favour of their own system, are not justified in continuing it if it permits the growth and propagation of pernicious weeds, and tends to produce disease and vermin, not only in their own crops but in their neighbours. Any farmer who permits, by his system of agriculture, injurious weeds to mature their seeds and scatter them over the cultivated soil of the country, is guilty of a great injustice to all industrious farmers who are anxious to keep their lands clean; and is the cause of great discredit to Canadian agriculture.—Disavowing as we do, any pretension to instruct by our selections or our own suggestions, those who require no instruction, we may be permitted to submit our ideas for the consideration of those who feel as we do the greatest satisfaction in reading any thing—and we may say, almost every thing—that is written on the subject of the science and practice of agriculture. It is true, we may read much on these subjects that may not be very useful, but nevertheless we may find some valuable instruction occasionally, that will more than repay us for the trouble of all we have read. We hope that Subscribers to this Periodical may find it so; that they may occasionally meet in its columns some information or suggestions that may be useful to them, and compensate in some degree for the trouble of reading. Reliance upon the indulgence of our Subscribers, we shall do all in our power to give satisfaction. We may be often mistaken in our views, and when we are, we beg those who prove us to be in

error, may communicate their own opinions to us. We shall always be willing to give useful information from those who have opposite views from ourselves. All we desire is that THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR may be conducted in such a manner, as to promote the improvement and prosperity of agriculture in British North America—and to effect this purpose, we shall submit the most approved modes of cultivation practiced in our father land, by the best agriculturists on earth, and who obtain the largest and most profitable returns from land and labour. If farmers will not follow the example of their brother-farmers in the British Isles, it shall not be our fault. If they can do better we have no objection; on the contrary, we shall rejoice in it. It cannot be expected that we should make experiments on every plant we recommend for cultivation, and every subject we submit for consideration. We have, however, too much regard for our character as a practical agriculturist, to offer any recommendation or suggestion that would be inconsistent with the pretensions we have avowed to that character. Other farmers have just as much right to be at the expense, and incur the risk of experiments as we have. If they have not confidence in the reasonableness and practicality of our suggestions and recommendations, let them reject them.

SEASONABLE REMARKS.

Much of the season for sowing wheat has been unfavourable. From the tenth to the twenty-first of September the rains were incessant, accompanied with cold winds. Much wheat has been sown since the latter period, which will operate much against the next year's crop, unless the autumn prove very fine for the growth of the plants. Spring wheat, sown on summer-fallowed land, is a much more certain crop than winter wheat, if the latter be not sown in good season and in proper condition.

This is the usual month for sowing clover-seed. No farmer should purchase his seeds. Clover-seed is the most profitable crop that can be raised on lands suitable for its culture; and the labour of dressing is comparatively light in this age of machinery. If there are no clover mills in the neighbourhood, the chaff which contains the seed may be passed twice through a common threshing machine, which operation will cost very little labour or money, and will be as effectual as the best imported mill.

We might cultivate with profit, in Western Canada, sufficient for our own consumption, and some thousands of bushels for annual exportation. A neighbour of mine, a few years since, sold £150 worth of clover-seed, being the produce of the second crop of ten acres; the first crop having yielded him two tons of superior hay per acre.

The best two weeks in the month of October, and the first two in the month of November, is the most suitable period for autumn ploughing, turning up the soil, and constructing and cleaning ditches; all of which will be considerably attended to on a well organized farm. Lands ploughed in autumn, if the soil be of a retentive watery nature, should be ploughed deep, and the low places or intervals should be drained with a plough or spade, so that there will be no possibility of the land being covered with surface water in the spring, to prevent the early application of