

on principles, evidently tending to promote the welfare of a country, will unquestionably realize, from a candid and liberal community.

The secretary read a letter he had received from a member in the country, expressive of the high expectations he had formed of the society, which, being approved, was directed to be published, with the sincerest thanks to the writer, for his early correspondence and assurance of a continuance.

To the Secretary of the Society for promoting Agriculture in Nova-Scotia.

Sir,

I lately read, with sincere pleasure, the plan of your society; and, as a testimony of my cordial approbation of the institution and wishes for its success, I have sent my name and my guinea to your treasurer, that I may have the honour of being enrolled a member, according to your regulations. I never paid a guinea with more cheerfulness in my life; and were my brother farmers to view the society, in the same important light with me, there are very few who would not follow my example.

Perhaps there was nothing more wanted in this province than such a society, or that could be more conducive to its prosperity. Agriculture is a science or art; like other arts, it is reducible to certain principles, and should be regulated by them. A knowledge of those principles is to be acquired by observation and experiments; and these, joined to practice, must unite in carrying this art to perfection.

The great utility of your society may hence appear. The settlers of a new country, like this, labour under peculiar disadvantages in all those respects. Their circumstances will not admit of making many experiments; they have little leisure for observation; their whole time is employed in procuring a subsistence by that mode of farming which chance threw in their way, and is seldom founded on right principles. Besides, different soils and climates require different modes of culture. Observation, experiments and practice only can discover what those modes are; and the united labours of many, for a series of years, are necessary to make the discovery. It is needless to say, that your society will be highly beneficial in these particulars, and help to conduct the farmer in this new country, to the right mode of practice. Nay, it will call forth the

exertions of the people, and promote that industry which is the principal requisite in agriculture.

For my part, I glory in the name of farmer—No class of men is more useful or respectable in society—none more independent or happier. The farmer feeds the whole community—by his labour all subsist, of whatever rank or condition, To him, commerce owes its support—the sail cannot be spread without the assistance of the plough. Agriculture is a much surer source of wealth and plenty, than mines of gold and silver. The Spaniards toil to get those metals for the farmers of Great-Britain and other countries; but are poor themselves, in the midst of their mines.

These sentiments of the importance of agriculture, are confirmed by the judgment and practice of the wisest nations. I am one of the few farmers who have joined theory and reading, to the practical part of this most useful art; and have consulted many, who have treated of the subject. Among the writers on agriculture, I could mention some of the most celebrated princes, statesmen and poets of antiquity; and I find, that the nations which have been most distinguished by their wisdom, policy and power, have paid the most attention to agriculture.

Agriculture was held in the highest estimation by the Egyptians; they made it an object of policy and government; and no country was richer, better peopled, or more powerful, than Egypt. In Assyria and Persia, the governors of provinces were rewarded, if the lands were well cultivated in their respective districts; but, if neglected, they were punished.

The peculiar regard which the Romans paid to agriculture, is well known. Some of their greatest generals and statesmen were taken from the plough; and several of the most eminent families derived their names from the articles which their ancestors cultivated with success; such as the Fabii, Lentuli, &c. &c. To be called a good husbandman, was expressive of the highest honour; and whoever neglected the culture of his land, was subject to animadversion by the Censor. Notwithstanding their enmity to Carthage, yet they procured a translation, into Latin, of twenty-eight books on husbandry, written by Mago, a Carthaginian; and we have, at this day, several treatises on agriculture, written by the Romans, which are deemed among the best upon the subject. In a word, their attention to agriculture was a principal foundation of their grandeur; but, when luxury had corrupted their morals, this art, like the frugality, virtue,