

the means and knowledge within my power than I would ever hope to gain by any improved system that could be imagined; and I scarcely ever had a poor crop, or any misfortune in farming but what I could, with a little ingenuity, trace to some remissness of my own.

The advantages of Agriculture as a pursuit may be considered as national, and individual. Nations have generally flourished in proportion as Agriculture has been encouraged and fostered, and the decline of Agriculture and of the State, have in many cases been closely connected. If Agriculture is of such advantage to nations in general, it must be of the most vital importance to Canada, which can never be a prosperous country except by agriculture in the first instance. And Canada has many natural advantages for agriculture. Upper Canada, especially, will compare favourably with most countries. With an excellent soil and climate, and her splendid lakes and rivers. She has but one drawback, the long and severe winters. As we can do nothing to change the seasons, it becomes our interest to make the best of them, as they are. As the country becomes older and more improved, however, the winters will undoubtedly become more moderate. And those who have remarked the seasons for a number of years back well know that a considerable improvement is already perceptible. And yet with all the natural advantages which Canada possesses for agriculture, how little has hitherto been done for it by those to whom the destinies of the country have been entrusted? How few of the "great minds" of Canada have been "directed to the study and development of its true principles." And how many of the *little* minds have neglected their farms to attend to some political question, which a sensible neighbour of mine declared "would not make six York shillings difference in the course of a whole year." I would by no means intimate that the farmers of Canada are generally neglectful of their business as compared with any other people: on the contrary I think a more industrious and contented people will not easily be found, and I do not think there is at this time a more prosperous country on the face of the earth than Upper Canada. Still there is plenty of room for improvement in us all; and I do think that agriculture has not had the support and encouragement from the higher powers that its acknowledged importance demands. I think it may safely be asserted, that if as much attention had been given to agriculture, as to many other questions of far less moment, there would not now be a large section of intelligent and industrious farmers in any part of Canada, whose system of cultivation is so bad that they "do not derive from the soil more than one-fourth of what it can produce!"

A better prospect, however, is now before us. The circumstances I have before alluded to, it is to be hoped, will give a fresh impetus to agriculture from which much good will ultimately proceed, and for this improved prospect I consider we are mainly indebted to the enterprise and perseverance of those truly patriotic men, who have under great discouragement endeavoured to organize, and continued to uphold agricultural societies in the different parts of the Province. May they have their reward!

Much has been said in favour of Agriculture as a pursuit to individuals, and much more might be said, but I have no wish to exaggerate its advantages. If any person fond of ease and pleasure should engage in agriculture, expecting to find it a state of perfect happiness, and that he will have nothing more to do than sit under his vine and fig tree, and enjoy himself, he will assuredly meet with disappointment; but a similar disappointment will as certainly await the man of business who shall engage in it in the expectation of acquiring a rapid fortune. To the poor man labouring his little farm with his own hands, or probably the occasional assistance of his wife in the field, it is indeed a life of hardship. But if he has courage, perseverance and prudence, hardship will gradually wear off; with good luck, which too many depend much on—and in vain—but which rarely fails to accompany the *prudent* and *industrious*. The hard work of the farmer ceases to be a hardship to him when he sees that every day's work is laid out to advantage, and is preparing for himself and his family a future state of ease and comfort. And the consciousness of independence procured and sustained by his own exertions and the protection of Providence is a constant support to him, and encourages him to continue and increase his exertions. There are many instances in Upper Canada of men coming on a new uncleared farm, (frequently not paid for,) who were not able to provide themselves with comfortable food and clothing, but who by steady perseverance, industry, and care have acquired comfortable fortunes, and have risen from the station of poor labourers to be men of the first consequence and standing in their localities! The man of moderate means will have still far greater facilities for improving his condition without the hardships which the poor farmer has first to undergo. Agriculture is not the pursuit by which to amass a fortune in a short time, but it is undoubtedly the most certain means of procuring a comfortable competence. Some acquire large fortunes rapidly by other pursuits, especially commerce, greater fortunes than could ever be expected from agriculture. But of the thousands who start in the pursuit of fortunes through commerce, or other exciting and hazardous enterprizes many become