

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

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

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PROSPECTUS
OF A MONTHLY PERIODICAL
ENTITLED
THE BRITISH AMERICAN
CULTIVATOR.

WM. EVANS, EDITOR, and
W. G. EDMUNDSON, PROPRIETOR.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR has been published, solely with the view, to advance the improvement of Agriculture—to advocate the interests of Agriculturalists—and to promote the general improvement and prosperity of the noble Provinces comprised in the North American portion of the British Empire.

Possibly we may be accused of considerable presumption in professing to entertain such exalted views. We do entertain them, however, and if we are supported by the class for whose benefit this Periodical has been published principally, we shall use every exertion to redeem this pledge, so far as our humble abilities will enable us to do so.

We need not, perhaps, remind our Agricultural friends that this is the only publication, that is almost exclusively Agricultural, now published throughout the wide extent of the Canadas, and that it cannot be continued, or made useful to them unless it is supported by a numerous list of Subscribers.—Can it be possible that any Agriculturalist would refuse to subscribe one dollar annually to give a fair trial to a publication that promises so much benefit? We may not be able to effect all the good we anticipate, but from the means we possess, and shall have at our disposal, we confidently promise the subscribers, that we shall give them interesting information that will amply compensate them for the amount of their subscription.

We would observe further, that the columns of the CULTIVATOR shall be open to any farmer who may be disposed to circulate useful instruction for the benefit of his brother farmers. We do not propose that the CULTIVATOR should only contain our own ideas, on Agricultural or other subjects. On the contrary, we shall have great satisfaction in publishing any useful communications on the science or practice of husbandry, in any of its branches, or on any other subject connected with the interests of Agriculture, and with the general improvement of the country. If, therefore, the CULTIVATOR should not contain as much of interesting matter as subscribers would desire, the fault shall not rest altogether with us, but with those who withhold what is useful, when we offer them an opportunity of making it public.

The columns of the CULTIVATOR shall also be open to any communication that will relate to our domestic manufactures, and the means of promoting any that would be useful and profitable. Indeed, we shall gladly receive and publish suggestions from any class of this community, that will have for their object the general improvement and prosperity of the country.

With this explanation of our views and

intentions may we hope for general support not only from the Agricultural class, but from all other classes? We profess that we desire to promote the true interests of all classes, by endeavouring to introduce a better system of Agriculture, and thereby greatly augmenting the annual produce created by our land and other labour. We wish to see the British American Provinces, rich in their own productions, and able to supply the British Isles, with any food they may occasionally require, perfectly independent of all aid from rivals and foreigners.

CONDITIONS:

To appear on the 1st of each month; to be double quarto form, on good paper and fair type; to be published at the exceeding low rate of

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All Postmasters are authorized Agents.—Any person obtaining 10 yearly subscribers, and transmitting their subscriptions (free of postage) to the Proprietor, shall receive a copy each month for himself, gratis.

N. B.—All orders, and communications to be addressed to the Proprietor, Toronto.

* * * Editors of Provincial Papers will please give the above one insertion.



To the Editor of the B. A. Cultivator.

PEMBROKE MEDONTE,

9th March, 1842.

DEAR SIR,—As the Representative of the County of Simcoe, whose Inhabitants are principally engaged in agricultural pursuits, and having the advantage of your acquaintance, permit me to offer you a word or two of encouragement in the very arduous undertaking of publishing such a periodical as the British American Cultivator. Knowing you to possess, in addition to the necessary attainments for such a work, great energy and strict integrity, I have no doubt of your complete success, when the public shall have had time to appreciate the vast importance of your endeavors to prepare each month matter worthy of its patronage.—The B. A. Cultivator is not of that ephemeral character, to be hastily read and then thrown aside. Containing as it does, practical views and instruction on Agriculture, Horticulture, and economy, it will be invaluable to every Farmer and country resident who studies his own and the interest and satisfaction of his family, for the B. A. Cultivator will be not only a fireside companion but a reference in many cases of emergency. May the B. A. Cultivator contribute largely to infuse a spirit of association among us, by which we may be instructed how to improve the gifts of a bountiful Providence, and all the advantages of a soil and

climate productive of both health and abundance.

To the credit of the settlers in the County of Simcoe, already much has been done to encourage and support the Agricultural Society of the County, and many spirited individuals have, at a very considerable risk, and expence, imported from Great Britain improved breeds of Durham, Devonshire, and Herefordshire Cattle. To Mr. Thomas Mairs of Vespra, in particular, Canada West is greatly indebted for his spirited exertions to improve the breed of Cattle and Sheep. I avail myself of this opportunity to assure the farmers of the Province in general, and of the County of Simcoe in particular, that my best efforts shall be exerted in behalf of their interests.

ELMES STEELE, M. P. P.

To the Editor of the B. A. Cultivator.

DEAR SIR,—Having experienced the good effects of Gypsum or Plaster as it is now generally called, and as I am anxious that every Farmer should know its valuable qualities I send you a short account of the good it has effected for me.

In the summer of 1836, I cut a piece of grass (Timothy & Clover), measuring about 12 acres, and as nearly as I could guess, there were about six or perhaps seven tons of Hay off the whole field.

I was advised next year to try the Plaster which I did. In the beginning of May 1837, I sowed nearly 4 barrels on the same field, but my farming man not having much faith in its efficacy, left one land unsown. That year I had about 15 tons, but the land which was left unplastered, was nearly as bare as the road, I could not make out the reason why it was so, until my man told me that he had not put any Plaster upon it. Since that time I have continued to Plaster the same field every year with great success, having cut a larger quantity every year except last, which was very bad, for all grass being so dry.

Part of the field I ploughed up in the fall of 1840 and sowed with wheat, but in consequence of the drought it looked so badly in the spring, that I was afraid it would have to be ploughed up, but first I tried Plaster. In one week the difference perceptible was so great, that people passing by occasionally used to observe it. I had about 20 bushels per acre from that field, but it was not so fine a grain as some other wheat which was not plastered, and this I have observed to be the case with all the wheat I have ever plastered. I consider it is very good for grass of all sorts, but not for any grain which is wanted to ripen. If sown upon a mixed field of Clover and Timothy, it brings the Clover on far above the other, and thus of course is owing to the border leaf of the Clover retaining the Plaster. It should always be sown after a shower, or when the dew is upon the plant.

I think the beginning of May is the best time, and the quantity about a barrel to three acres, or if the land is in very fine order to four acres will be enough.

G. W. GIRDLESTONE.

Thornhill, March 10th. 1842.