



"Agriculture not only gives Riches to a Nation, but the only Riches she can call her own."

New Series.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1846.

Vol. II. No. 2.

Agricultural Education.

PROBABLY there is no topic of greater interest to the Canadian people than that of placing the educational institutions on such a footing, that the farmers' sons and daughters may have an opportunity of acquiring a sound practical education. Various plans have been proposed to accomplish this object, but in our opinion none is so wisely calculated to widely diffuse a taste for improvement in rural pursuits, as the one which is now being carried out in Scotland, and in a few of the Germanic states, which simply consists of the employment of well-qualified teachers, and the introduction into the schools of a high order of class books, treating upon the various branches of learning embraced in the science of agriculture. Public attention has not been sufficiently aroused to the importance of this subject in this country to secure a general co-operation on the part of the farmers themselves, who are really the most interested parties; but nevertheless, it is high time that those who are anxious to see Canada rise to the zenith of prosperity, should agitate and not cease agitating until the youths of the country are thoroughly educated and trained in all the branches of learning that would be of use to them in performing the various duties of usefulness which may fall to their lot, when they arrive at the age of manhood or womanhood. It is not our object at this time to enter into a lengthy dissertation upon the very interesting theme of a

agricultural education, but merely to attract public attention towards it. At an early opportunity we purpose to discuss the subject in detail in such a manner that the most incredulous will have to acknowledge that the farmer should be the most liberally educated man in the province.

The prudent farmer will in a few years acquire a sufficient amount of capital to be able to invest a trifle of each year's income in some useful enterprise which is calculated to enrich the country and develop its wide-spread resources. This subject is so imperfectly understood, that, up to a very recent period, no mention whatever has been made of it; and probably the true cause of the apathy which is evinced on this and kindred topics, may be traced to the fact, that the institutions for educating the rural classes, have been, until lately, allowed to struggle on without receiving any beneficial attention from government or the influence of a judicious system of organization. In those countries where the education of the rural classes have not been neglected, the farmers are among the foremost in encouraging manufacturing establishments, which are mostly upon the joint stock system; and the history of such enterprises have shown in a most conclusive manner, that with directors selected from the rural classes, they have not only proved a source of profitable investment for the stockholders, but have been the means of enriching the nation to a very considerable degree.¹¹ Many instances