

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN



# CULTIVATOR.

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

VOL. III.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1844.

NO. 2.



## THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of land to practice, and every labourer to improve."—*Dr. Johnson.*

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1844.

### MONTHLY CALENDAR.

Much of the business of the last month may still be continued. The thrashing and delivering the produce to market, will occupy most of the time of this month. This and the following are severe months for the stock,—they very commonly suffer more this and the next month by the weather than during any others.

Give your sheep, especially ewes, a supply of good hay and bran, or chop mashes, and also a few potatoes or Swedish turnips at this season of the year. Without extra attention of this kind, many of the ewes will die in lambing, and those that recover will not be able to furnish a sufficient supply of milk for their young. In most farm yards, there is an abundance of the common description of straw, which should be liberally scattered over the sheepfold, and the manure made from which, together with the additional comfort to the

animals, will amply remunerate the trouble.

Endeavour to provide a summer's supply of fuel. Recollect that every day spent in midsummer in chopping and loading firewood is worth at least three days in winter.

Choice varieties of scions may be cut during this and the two succeeding months for grafting, and may be carefully kept in a cool place till required for use.

Great trouble should be taken to procure the choicest varieties of seeds, roots, fruits, and shrubbery, and at no season can it be done with so little cost as this.

As scientific farming is becoming more popular than it was a few years since, the improvement of the stock should keep pace with the improved modes of culture pursued by the cultivators. A description of horses, horned cattle, sheep, and swine may be bred, which will give a return profit to the breeder of at least 25 per cent. greater than what is generally realized from rearing the common breeds of the country. This fact should stimulate the intelligent farmer to renewed exertion in carrying out improvements in this particular branch of his exalted profession. Lime, gypsum, ashes leached or unleached, soot, charcoal dust, and marl, should be collected and laid under cover for future use. There is scarcely a Township in the Province but what abounds with the richest and most valuable qualities of marl. Some specimens, which have lately come under the observation of the writer, contains upwards of 40 per cent. of lime. One bed, in particular, situated in the Township of Whitchurch, being eight or

ten feet in depth, and covering an area of some eight or ten square acres, contains upwards of 45 per cent of calcareous matter, and, in fact, appears to have been a deposit of shell fish. Wherever beds of this or less valuable quantities of marl are known, the farmer in the surrounding neighbourhood should procure a few loads, and test its adaptation to the soil they cultivate.

If you have not already become a member of an Agricultural Association, it is high time you had; and do not content yourself by merely subscribing to the funds of the society, but attend its periodical meetings, and endeavour mutually to assist each other in elevating your standing as agriculturists. Your noble calling has been too much neglected formerly, and it is only by a general concert of action, on the part of the practical farmers themselves, that the country can recover from the general depression of trade, which is so universally a source of complaint.

**RAISE EVERY THING.**—Every farmer should make it a rule to purchase nothing that he can raise or make on his farm. There can be no higher evidence of an unprofitable farmer, than to see him purchasing his pork, his beet, his horses, his corn, or his flour. He should be ashamed to have it said that he is a purchaser of any of these articles. If he thinks it cheaper to purchase than to raise it, it is only additional evidence of his folly. If we look through the district for our best farmers, we shall find them selling instead of purchasing these articles.—*Am. Ear.*