

Supposing one of our prominent British agriculturists, who looks forward to his periodical market with as much interest as to seed time or harvest, on his first arrival in this country is conducted to the scene of the Provincial Exhibition at Toronto, and reviewing, as he unquestionably would, with pleasure, the beauty, strength, and symmetry of our various classes of horses, and the no less prominent perfections of our various breeds of cattle, sheep, and hogs, and the great variety and superior mechanical construction and usefulness of our farming implements, and the various other attractions of that exhibition, of which Canada has just reason to be proud, he would naturally be led to enquire how our markets for horses, cattle, grain, &c., were conducted, their frequency and convenience in distance, and when plainly told how far we were behind the age in so requisite a provision for agricultural prosperity, he would certainly be at a loss to account for the conflicting appearance of matters. Our Republican neighbours are better posted up in this respect, and you can at any time learn the price of fat or lean stock, grain, &c., by consulting those papers that take an interest in agricultural pursuits, and who regularly publish the prices realized at the various markets. Our grain market, although somewhat in a better position than our live stock, is yet greatly defective. Wheat, one of our greatest staples for exportation, now varies at the different markets on Lake Ontario at least 6d. per bushel, without any tangible reason for this disparity. There is no doubt but the farmer has the power within himself for changing this state of things, which would be best accomplished by well-organized and extensive grain markets, so as to induce competition. Our millers would be quite as much benefited as the farmer by this arrangement, as under existing circumstances their mills are often stopped for want of grain, at a time when they most want it. Whereas the farmer would feel in duty bound to bring his grain to a market he himself had brought into existence, and which he would find it his interest to cherish. Our other grain and root crops would of course find an outlet in the same way.

When periodical markets either for live stock or grain are once permanently established in each township, town or district, people will be led to look back with wonder on the present peddling mode, and with regret that they had not sooner emancipated themselves from practices so far behind the age.

Among the many reasons which might be brought forward in favour of congregating on one spot the produce of the farm, whether of live stock or grain, might be quoted the following: The advantage of comparison, which would naturally beget a desire for emulation, and would give both seller and purchaser a more correct idea of the value of the article exposed for sale, by having an opportunity of a fair average throughout the market. Another inducement is held out in the rapidly increasing extent of root crops grown for stall-feeding cattle, and the unbusiness-like mode the purchaser has to adopt to supply himself, he may be scouring over a distant part of the country for his necessary sup-

ply of stock, while he could perhaps make a more advantageous purchase from his nearest neighbour.

The party disposed to sell is equally awkwardly situated, the cause of which is obvious to any one; had we stated periods for disposing of our stock, whether for the butcher, the feeder, the grazier or the dairy, both purchaser and seller would look forward to the specified time for the accomplishment of his desires. Supposing a farmer to liquidate a debt, wished to dispose of a few of his stock for this purpose, he has no certain mode of doing so under existing circumstances, the establishment of markets would do away with this difficulty as well as many others. There are many of the great advantages to be derived from the introduction of markets on which I have not even touched, but I consider the subject of such vital importance to our prosperity that I think it it only requires but a slight notice to bring its importance forcibly to our notice. I am not so little conversant with the matter but that I am aware there are some few places where markets are held, but they are so few and far between that they are but little known, and less heard of. The agricultural population of Canada must rise as one man, and though circumstances in some cases may transpire that may discourage them, and they may find some croakers who will predict their want of success, they will never have their business on a permanent basis until regular markets are firmly established. Much more might be said without exhausting the subject, but my auditors, I have no doubt, will consider I have trespassed long enough on their patience, I will therefore conclude by calling on the Township of Hamilton which has never yet been behind in anything where the furtherance of the farming interest was concerned, to come forward and at once set to work and establish a market for their mutual benefit.

Mr. P. R. Wright said, with the general argument of the Essay just read he most cordially concurred, nor did he believe there was one sane man in Canada who could dispute the principles on which the argument was founded, so clearly was the interest of the farmer (the producer) shown to be brought into direct contact with the consumer or his agent, that he did not see any necessity for illustrating *a fact* so completely within the grasp of the meanest intellect—he would merely glance at a few of the evils attending the present system, if such a term be applicable to the mode which farmers are at present compelled to adopt for disposing of the various commodities they have to sell. Under present circumstances, he would beg to ask his brother farmers generally the following question: When the butcher for fat stock, or the stall feeder for lean, finds out how he does so he could not tell, but this he knew, often with great loss of time) A, B, C or D, ~~had~~ got some such stock to sell, and the necessary, what do you ask for so and so? is put,—on what grounds do you fix a price? Is it not chance work? True, we may have heard that "Tom" got \$60 for a pair of steers, and "Dick" \$70 for a yoke of oxen, while "Harry" sold a fat ox for \$100, but this is no data, unless we have an opportunity of putting our steers or oxen side by