

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, APRIL 1, 1848.

MODEL FARM AND SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

We stated in our last that we would propose a scheme in this number, by which an Institution for the instruction of Farmers' sons may be speedily set in operation. As to the necessity for it, the advantage of it, and the right which the farmers of the country have to insist upon the aid of the Legislature in the establishment of such institutions, we trust we have said enough already—at least for the present. As collateral evidence in making out our case, before the country and the Government, we are glad to be able to present our readers with a few papers from the pen of Mr. Buckland, containing a brief description of the principal institutions which have been established in other countries for the advancement of agricultural science. Wonderful as it may appear, that an art so common-place and vulgar, that a science so simple and uninteresting as that of agriculture—which serve no other purpose than to provide the human animal with food—should be considered worthy the attention of grave statesmen and kingly rulers, it is nevertheless true! The thing, therefore, is not a mere experiment.

But we come to the practical question before us; how shall we make a beginning in Canada? The following will perhaps be found a good, if not the best plan. Let a stock-book be opened. The amount to be raised should not be less than £6000. It might be divided into 600 shares of £10 each.—This would form a fund to purchase land and to erect the necessary buildings. The shareholders should elect annually, from among themselves, a suitable number of Directors, who might have the general supervision and control of the Institution. The fixing of the amount of fees to be paid by students, authorising and limiting the expenditure in experiments, buildings, machinery, importation of animals, seeds, &c., and generally to regulate the expenses and provide for the wants of the establishment, (leaving the mode of conducting the education of the pupils and operations on the farm, entirely to the judgment of the Head Master or Principal,) should form the chief duties of the Directors. They should, in conjunction with the Principal, draw up a yearly report, embracing every thing that had been done of any interest, which should be laid before the Legislature, and published for the information and benefit of the country at large. The Principal, or whatever he might be called, should be the person who held the Chair of Agriculture, in the University. His lectures at the University, (which might be confined to a winter course,) need not interfere with his duties at the Agricultural School. In addition to the position and influence the Professorship would necessarily give him, the salary, which ought to be liberal, would go far towards paying for his services at the Farm. As it would be indispensable in this country, that a sort of general education should be imparted to the pupils, as well as instruction in agricultural science, a competent teacher for the branches required, would also be necessary. A course of lectures in Agricultural Chemistry, and also in Botany, or Vegetable Physiology, &c., might be delivered to the more advanced students, by the Professor of Chemistry, and the Professor of Materia Medica, in the University, who, if the institution were within six or eight miles of Toronto, could easily attend for that purpose. Now, if in addition to this portion of the educational machinery, the Legislature would make an annual grant—or what would be far better, set apart a sufficient quantity of public land for that purpose, as an endow-

ment,)—say £800 or £1000, an Agricultural School and Model Farm might be set in operation, on a scale that would effect immense good for the country. The educational department would thus be provided for, and a sum left to meet the pecuniary loss of the experimental department. This much assistance from Government will be, as it appears to us, absolutely essential.

Then, let the profits of the farm and the fees from students be applied in the first place to the payment of the expenses of management and hired labor; next to the payment of 6 per cent interest to the shareholders, and (if there be any left) the remainder expended in improving the farm, extending the buildings, &c. The Principal and Directors should be incorporated. It would probably be a good provision if government would agree to purchase the stock at the end of five or seven years, and assume the management, should the shareholders feel desirous of selling out, but not to allow them any interest. This would remove risk, and the requisite number of farmers to take up the shares, would be more easily found.

We have here sketched the outlines of a plan upon which we believe it quite practicable to establish one good agricultural Institution, at all events. It has two aspects. It is a government establishment, and is also an enterprise undertaken by individuals. If it were wholly supported and managed by government, we believe it would fail,—we mean as to its object; if it were left entirely to individuals—to farmers—to the public, it would never be begun. The first great object, is to get the class whom it is intended to benefit, interested in it. This will be attained if they can be induced to take shares, and they can be induced to take shares if it be shown that they cannot lose. Again, the Directors who will be composed of the most intelligent farmers will manage the affairs better, and will give more confidence to the institution than any body that government could appoint. Except the general principle that it is essential to combine government aid, with the direct personal interest in the conduct of the Institution, of the farmers themselves, we are not particularly wedded to the above scheme. We shall be glad to hear the opinions of some of our readers. There are many questions of detail to be considered, but we must leave them for another occasion.

UNIVERSITY—AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

Objection to diverting the funds of King's College for this purpose, absurd.—Farmers must look after their own interests.—Blundering in the Act for promoting Agriculture, &c. &c.

To the Editors of the Agriculturist.

GENTLEMEN,—

I observe with pleasure that every issue of the *Agriculturist* shows additional evidence that you, as editors, and that certain gentlemen, as correspondents, are alive to some of the most important interests of our common country. The University Question, which has so long agitated the public mind, is at length at the disposal of those who so earnestly called for "University Reform." And though we may have the greatest possible confidence in the new ministry, not only as ministers of the crown, but as being the very parties who, with a majority of our representatives in Parliament, would settle the question the nearest to our liking; though these may be the very persons of our choice, we are not, on that account, to consider them immaculate. The hinge on which the late elections turned was, whether the University as a great Provincial Institution, endowed with funds for general education, (exclusive of Theology) was to be secured beneficially and inalienably to the people of Canada, and their posterity, or whether the endowment should be divided among several smaller institutions under the supervision of their respective religious denominations. As to the justness of the demands of either party, there still exists a difference of opinion; but all parties are professedly agreed as to the propriety of establishing a chair of Agriculture in the University, having connected with it an experimental farm. The question now arises, to what extent shall the funds of the University be applied for the encouragement of scientific Agriculture? Most unquestionably the University fund should be applied as liberally in the support of a Great Agricultural School, as in the Great School of Law or Medicine. "But," says one, "The present position of our country, does not require such an institution for the encouragement of Agri-