

districts at least, the usual time that the school is open, is from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M., with an interval of an hour at noon. Six hours each day are thus employed in the direct purposes of tuition, giving 360 minutes, or, at an average 1½ minute to each lesson.

Surely nobody will pretend to say that this allowance of time is extravagant; and, if not, it is evidently impossible that the time of the Common School teacher can be advantageously employed on other branches of study, than those before indicated. But the information thus imparted, is not sufficient to qualify a man to fulfil the duties of his station in this life, with credit and efficiency. Something more is requisite. He must be introduced to a knowledge of the principles, at least, of such of the sciences as are most intimately connected with the profession or business, which it is intended that he shall pursue; and how is this to be accomplished?

The enquiry will form the subject of my next letter.

Yours, truly,

W. COLVILLE.

Esquesing, Feb'y. 1842.

COLCHESTER, WESTERN DISTRICT, }
15th April, 1842. }

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

The establishment of a Canadian journal, exclusively devoted to the advancement of agriculture, being what I have long earnestly hoped for, allow me to congratulate the public in general, and the farming community in particular, on the realization of that very desirable, and, as far as the latter is concerned, most auspicious and important event, in the appearance of *The British American Cultivator*, to which I have of course become a Subscriber, and of which I have the pleasure of having now before me the first three promising numbers.

Under ordinary circumstances I would be content to address you anonymously, but considering it the duty of every patriotic well-wisher to the agricultural prosperity of Canada, to step forward frankly and give you all the encouragement and support in his power; and it having been my lot to take a rather prominent part, some few years ago, in the establishment of an *Agricultural and Horticultural Society* in this District, which has unfortunately lain dormant ever since the "patriot" outbreak, I feel myself called upon to lay aside all disguise, and to express an ardent hope that, under the auspices of an Editor so well versed in the theory as well as practice of agriculture, as you are known to be, *The British American Cultivator* will, ere long, rouse the farmers in every part of the country, and more particularly of this fine District, to something like zeal in their agricultural pursuits, and prove that all that is wanting to ensure a triumphant competition with our American neighbours, is persevering energy and industry, and local emulation in the adoption of the scientific systematic tillage, which has proved so miraculously beneficial in the mother country, together with the periodical dissemination of the successful practical results of their experiments, through a widely circulating public medium, such as I trust your valuable journal will soon prove.

Being also, at the same time persuaded, that the success of your undertaking will mainly depend on the support you receive from *Correspondents* and *Subscribers* united, I beg to assure you, as an earnest of the sincerity of my observations, that as opportunity offers, I shall not fail to "trouble you

with a few lines, or matters which may become subjects of discussion, either in my own name, or as less liable to animadversion, on the score of vanity or presumption, under some anonymous signature, promising that having only of late years, "turned my sword into a plough-share, and my spear into a pruning hook," the arguments of an old soldier, on a subject so foreign to his profession, must be indulgently regarded as more matter of theory than practice, notwithstanding his having witnessed agriculture in all stages in various quarters of the world.

I remain, at all events,

Dear Sir,

Your very sincere well-wisher,
R. LACHLAN.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

Having seen a communication in your valuable paper, I think No. 2, from Mr. Thomas Shepperd, Toronto, regarding mud or unburnt brick buildings; I now take the liberty to address you and give you my opinion of that art. I built a house this last year, 31 feet by 21 feet: I built it of unburnt bricks, and neither used straw nor stones in the making of the bricks, and I think it is not at all necessary to use either of them, as I think the straw would be an impediment in the making of the bricks. I mixed the surface and blue swamp clay, and moulded the bricks with ashes; and after plastering, whitewashed it with lime. I made a special mortar of lime, sand, and clay, for building the bricks with, it made an excellent band; the house is built cottage fashion with a pavilion roof; the chimney is in the centre of the house, with doors and windows opposite each other. I agree with Mr. Shepperd's opinion of building such houses, as I think they are preferable in winter as being warmer than a frame house, and cooler in summer.

I have addressed this communication to you and hope you will give it publicity, as I think that many people might benefit themselves by following Mr. Shepperd's and my own plan of building. I shall be glad to inform any person, as far as I am capable of, regarding the art, by calling on me, where they may see my house.

I am, dear Sir,

Your most obed't. serv't

JAMES MCGREGOR.

GLANGRIGOR CASTLE, LOT No. 6,
11th Con. Township of Howard.

To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

SIR,

Every intelligent Canadian, every well-informed foreigner, who has made this the country of his choice, every individual who is either intimately or remotely concerned in the prosperity of agriculture, (and few are not), must feel gratified at the occurrence of an event, so well calculated to advance its interests, as the establishment of an exclusively Agricultural Periodical.

The benefits and advantages of such a work are neither few nor unimportant. I am aware, however, that there are some farmers so well satisfied with the knowledge they possess, as to feel perfectly indifferent about acquiring more; they consider it a sort of imputation upon their judgment, if you tell them that they may learn something from an agricultural paper. Books, are to them, the most distrustful of all the sources of information, (and I regret to say, too many of this description of persons are to be found among my own countrymen).

But surely this ought not so to be. While the professors and friends of all the other arts and sciences, call to their aid the light and accumulated written wisdom of the past and present ages, why should the art of cultivating the earth, by far the most important of all the arts, be left to no other guide than blind tradition?

To what are we to attribute the recent rapid advances in agricultural knowledge in the mother country, and in the neighbouring Union? What has pointed out to the agriculturist new sources of wealth; and not only taught the theory, but enabled him to realize the pleasure of blooming gardens, of fruitful fields, and luxuriant harvests? What, I say, has done all this, but books and the scientific communications of literary men, who have devoted their wealth and their talents, to lighten the burdens and increase the stores of the farmer? The benighted ignorance of those men, who repudiate books, and will do nothing but what their fathers have done, merits our most heart-felt commiseration.

It is indeed possible, that every thing new may not be valuable; but it is certain, that every thing valuable, was once new. We should not, therefore, reject a thing that promises to be useful, merely because it is new, without first giving it a fair trial. If among the numerous machines invented, and the various plans of operation devised by the ingenuity of man, to lighten his labours and add to his comforts, we should see an occasional failure, it should not deter us from pressing into our own service whatever is really useful. Who will not acknowledge that a spirit of improvement has gone forth—that its influence is rapidly extending itself through every department in the business of life? What an improvement, for example, has been made, within a few years, upon that most useful of all the implements to good husbandry, the plough. Twenty years ago, its model, in many instances, would seem to have been taken from Egyptian Hieroglyphics, where it is said to be represented; but little changed from its rude and simple original, in the form of a sharpened stake! Though there are few but will acknowledge the superior excellence of the modern plough, how many are still in ignorance of the real value and usefulness of that other important utensil, the roller? Yet, one would suppose, that every farmer, in the least degree acquainted with the process of germination, and subsequent growth of plants, must at once perceive the utility of passing a roller over wheat fields, that have been exposed to the alternate thawings and freezings of a Canadian winter; by which means the roots of the young plants would be pressed into the earth, and secured against the drying withering influence of the sun and wind.

The mistaken notion is too generally entertained by farmers, that no experimental operations can be made, no change of system introduced without burdensome expense. The wealth of the opulent may indeed do much; but mental research, and a spirit of enquiry, accompanied by the personal inspection, and persevering efforts of the practical farmer, will do much more to increase the produce and improve the condition of our farms.

As a Canadian, I feel deeply interested in the future prosperity of my country, and I fondly cherish the hope that those hateful prejudices, which have hitherto raised such a barrier to improvement, will soon disappear.

I know of nothing so well calculated to effect their removal, as a well conducted agricultural publication—a desideratum that has long been felt; but which is now sup-