

It must be confessed that there is a great want of neatness in our rural economy if we can apply that term to our agricultural system—an American colonist seems to have an antipathy to trees, and to have waged a war of extermination against them. Our cottage economy comprises a house built something like a packing box, with a horse shed and stable on one side, and a pig-pen and wood pile on the other, the intervening space of ground being common property for pigs, cattle, and geese, which all in turn dispute possession of the threshold. A garden, generally speaking, is considered superfluous, for the field affords potatoes, and a small patch behind the barn furnishes its cabbages and cucumbers; as for trees, the forest supplies a sufficiency, cut up in in cord wood lengths beside the door, the lily pond, flower garden, and the lawn will be found in the meadow.

These censures apply particularly to the farms of those persons, who have had the means and time to attend to the ornamental, united with useful husbandry; for I am aware that the settler upon new lands, those pioneers of the forests with no other patrimony but their hands and a determined resolution, must spend and be spent in hewing down the wilderness, and clearing away the stumps for the benefit of their successors.

A variety of causes have retarded the improvement of agriculture in this province, and among them I may mention the unfortunate combination of character viz: the farmer and the lumberer. SMITH, in his *Wealth of Nations*, has observed that the division of labour is the perfection of work—implying that each operative pursues his peculiar and distinct vocation. This division is found advantageous in other manufactures: and of how much importance must it be in the manufacture of a farm. I am inclined to consider this union of incompatibles, viz. the farmer and the lumberer as one great cause of the prevailing neglect, which characterizes the agricultural appearance of the province, and I believe I am not speaking without authority, when I assert that the

pursuit of two occupations, so entirely at variance, has produced the *division* of the farm to satisfy the demands of mercantile creditors for agricultural supplies. The introduction of immigrant labourers, and the consignment of this department of industry to persons unconnected with agriculture, is the only remedy for this great evil.

Another cause militating against the prosperity of agriculture, may be found in the mistaken prejudice of too many of those young men, who desert their paternal farms for the delusive attractions of the city, and who consider mercantile and professional pursuits, more worthy than those of agriculture; but they are wrong—agriculture is a science—and the man who pursues it as such, and conducts himself with industry and propriety, may be proud of his rank and standing in the community; he is worthy of respect, and he will always command and receive it. Time and trial—failure behind the counter, and “nothing to do” in the professions will convince such adventurers, that a snug farm supplying the comforts, and many of the luxuries of life ensures a happier state of existence, than the artificial appearances of a town, with the real annoyances of *dishonoured notices*, and the whisperings of failures, that may possibly involve themselves in the ruin. If a statement of the failures of professional and mercantile men, contrasted with the instances of success were compared with a similar statement of the failure and success of persons devoted to agriculture, the inference would be in favour of the latter, and I doubt not, that such an exposition would have an influence decidedly beneficial to the cause of agriculture.

In justice to the agricultural capabilities of our provinces, I must vindicate them from the detractions of some, who have written with more acrimony than candour, and of others who have manifested more ignorance than geographical knowledge,—our forests have been compared to brambles, and our productive meadows, some of them not surpassed by the celebrated Carse of Gowry