

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

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

Vol. 1.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1842.

No. 1.

## THE CULTIVATOR.

### Introductory.

Since the issue of our Circulars, under date 16th of Nov. last, a circumstance has transpired which has induced us to change the title of our publication. The motives, influencing us to adopt the present title, are expressed at large on page 4. We have issued our first number a few days in advance of its date, in order to give Subscribers to periodicals of a similar character, published in the United States, an opportunity of supporting ours, by transferring their subscriptions, which commence with the New Year to the support of a Canadian paper, which, we flatter ourselves, will be found deserving of their patronage. The circulation of those papers in these Provinces is sufficient to cover all the expenses that would be incurred, on a similar publication issued in our own country. We give a notice in another column, taken from the new *Genesee Farmer*, of the "death of the *Canadian Farmer and Mechanic*, for want of proper care and nourishment." That paper alone has a circulation of 1,500 in the Province of Canada. Our sheet is exactly of the same size, and the difference in price, in favour of theirs, will be only one half-penny on each number, when the postage is added. We leave the matter to be decided by an intelligent public, whether a publication, devoted exclusively to our local interests, should be supported and *nourished* in preference to one of a foreign character. The immense outlays we must necessarily incur for suitable Engravings, to illustrate the different important subjects that may come under our notice; and the extremely low price of our publication will require an extensive circulation to defray the expenses; confidently anticipating that our spirited Yeoman will use every exertion in their power, to establish a publication in British America, devoted exclusively to their interests,—we have been induced to give them a fair trial—we hope our confidence will not be misplaced. Let but every individual who has any interest in the cultivation of the soil take a prominent part in promoting its circulation; and the scientific and learned become contributors to its columns, the work will then be easily accomplished.

It is a matter of astonishment, as well as regret, while commercial, as well as political papers, may be numbered in our country by the score, that not one is established, devoted exclusively to the leading pursuits of five-sixths of the whole population. The result of this neglect, in a great measure, has been the necessity of large importations of the necessaries of life from Great Britain and the United States, whilst we have had but a trifling surplus production to exchange for those commodities: whereas, if a judicious system of husbandry were adopted, throughout every section of these large and fertile Provinces, an annual average surplus would be given, sufficient to meet the de-

mands of our importations. The great truth, that the real source of our wealth, lies in the productive industry of those classes whose welfare it will be our object to further, is beginning to be better understood, and its wide spread agencies more fully appreciated, by every lover of his country.—Our yeomen are, in general, the owners of the soil they cultivate—farm may be added to farm, with the possession of property, a spirit of inquiry is awakened, information of a character that will enhance their interests is demanded; and men of science, experience, and ability, are gladly consulted. Towards lightening the labours of an Editor, in charge of an agricultural periodical, we invite the cordial co-operation of the friends of those interests. Much of the work will necessarily devolve upon them—if each contribute his mite the work will be greatly accelerated. There are many scientific practical Farmers interspersed through these North American Provinces whom, we think, the public interest have claims sufficient to induce them to make known, through our columns, the results of their research. There are, likewise, hundreds of able practical husbandmen who are unaccustomed to write for the public press, and such we wish to give in a plain statement of facts, if they require any dressing, we will place them in a proper form before our readers.

The great advancements which Agriculture has made in Great Britain, within the last half century, furnish a very interesting example of the improvements of which this science is susceptible. We need only notice the amendments introduced into different sections of these provinces within the last fifteen years by emigrants from the British Isles, to show that much improvement may be made in the general practice of Agriculture. Every available exertion shall be used, on our part, to advance the true interests of the cultivators of the soil, by extending an improved system of cultivation throughout every portion of the Provinces, and encouraging the more extensive use of articles, the produce of our domestic manufactures.

We shall address a copy of this number to each Post-master throughout the Provinces, and likewise forward one to many of the most influential Farmers, in the hope of making it generally known; being confident that it is only necessary to bring it to the notice of those classes, for whose benefit it is intended, to induce most of them to become Subscribers and we request those who may receive a copy of it, to use their influence for our publication, if they cannot attend to it personally, we hope they will be kind enough to place the paper in the hands of some individual who will feel interested in extending its circulation. We hope all those who do not feel disposed to subscribe for our paper, or take an interest in its publication, will be kind enough to return the number, (by post,) to the Proprietors.

All Post-Masters, who take an interest in our publication, will be considered authorized Agents—such will please forward their names and address to the Editor of the *British American Cultivator*, without delay. The same premium will be given them as we allow other Agents.

### Cheap Houses.

There has been within the last four years introduced in this District, a style of houses as yet comparatively unknown to other parts of the Province. We feel a pleasure in bringing it into general notice, as it will, no doubt, be brought into general use as soon as its good qualities are fully known. The houses constructed on this style are denominated "the unburnt brick house." The few brief hints we intend to give at this time on the subject, will be more to solicit correspondence than to give a detailed description of the process of building. If those who are more acquainted with the matter than we are, should fail to give the particulars, we will advert to it in our next, and endeavour, by the ensuing spring to give creditable testimonials in their favour, and clearly elucidate the subject to the understanding of all classes who take an interest in reading our Journal. These buildings cost about the same price as a frame, and a farmer who could do much of the work within himself, could erect the walls of such a building nearly as cheap as with logs. The material for the brick is prepared much in the same manner as for common brick, with the exception of its being mixed with straw. The dimensions of the brick are 6 inches thick, 12 inches wide, and 18 inches long. A number of houses have been built this last summer by contract, at the rate of £1. per hundred brick, (including making) containing an area of 75 feet of wall. The walls of a house, 30 feet square and 15 feet high, at that rate would cost only £34. The common practise is to rough-cast, and when built upon a good stone wall, are considered the warmest and most durable house that we have. There are within a circuit of 40 miles of this city, at least 200 of those houses, and the most of them have been built within the last 2 years. We have seen houses, barns, stables, and sheds built upon the same plan. All seem to be well satisfied, and recommend their neighbours "to go and do likewise." Much credit is due to the person who introduced this valuable plan of buildings in our country, and if any are solicitous to hear further on the subject, he would no doubt answer, through our columns, any inquiries that may be made.

### To Correspondents.

WE hope all those who may be kind enough to contribute to the columns of the *Cultivator*, will endeavour to make their articles interesting and useful. We have noticed the speculations of the Multicaulis—the Chinese Tree Corn—the Rohans—the Egyptian—Siberian—and Italian varieties of wheat, and all the other humbugs, which have been practiced among our neighbours, within the last few years; and confidently hope that we will not be the instrument of palming on the public such impositions. We are fully aware that some varieties of seeds, roots, &c., are much better, and more profitable, than others; but, it is quite soon enough to bring them into public notice, when their good qualities, and adaptedness, to our climate, are fully tested—they may, then, be brought safely into notice, and the public instead of being deceived will be benefited.