

irrespective of sect or party, distrest in his estimation constituted the claim.

Mr. Dods is a public loss. But we find real consolation in the conviction that our loss is his gain. Active and enterprising as he was, and having many claims upon his time and care, besides the management of his extensive farm, we are able to state *from knowledge*, that he was not unmindful of the life beyond the grave, and of the account there to be given of the talents intrusted to our care.

The cold earth has now received him back to its kindred dust:—that earth which he might be said to have moulded according to his will, and almost made subservient to his pleasure. It now his mortal remains, inert, unconscious, and powerless; but the collection of his virtues holds, and his energy in the cause of Agriculture, will be cherished by many, and the Agricultural Society will long continue to associate with many of their most valuable improvements, the name of their late President, JOHN DODS.

SUBSOIL PLOUGHING.

In our last issue, we intimated our intention to return to this subject at an early day, and we feel persuaded that its vast importance will be a sufficient apology for our doing so, were any apology called for. Underdraining has been deservedly extolled; but in our opinion, founded upon some little practical experience, a considerable share of the merit is due, in effect, to the breaking up of the soil, to a depth much below that reached by means of ordinary ploughing, in order to lay the tiles. In the Districts of Montreal, St. Hyacinthe, Iberville and Beauharnois, there are vast tracts of land so nearly level that underdraining would be both difficult and expensive. A considerable portion of these lands are stiff subsoil tenacious clays, and it is here that the plough would bring about the happiest results. Here we shall state a little of what has passed under our own observation, in illustration of the practice for which we are contending. Some seventeen years ago, an acquaintance of ours purchased one of these worn out farms. Over hundreds of yards there was scarcely a fall of a few inches. The stiff, white clay soil, was almost barren with herbage, except the thistle deserves that character. A few acres of wheat and oats had been sowed among lumps so hard and dry,

as to set the very best harrows completely at defiance. Along the centre of narrow crooked ridges in another field, we could perceive a handful of peas here and there, but in no instance could there be gathered five bushels to the acre; while the poor lank cattle in the pasture, seemed to be licking bare little spots, where the thistle had either been starved out, or was unable to take root.

Our friend brought on both improved implements and stock, and set to work in the Fall to prepare for the ensuing Spring. The wheat stubble was ploughed by a powerful span of horses and a good iron plough, to a depth that had never been reached before by three inches at least. Tough, yellow subsoil was thrown to the surface, having something the appearance of soap,—its sharp and well defined angle scarcely shewing a break, and the whole work was smooth and polished. The neighbours pronounced the field spoiled for years to come. But they were still more incredulous when our friend declared his purpose to sow the same piece in wheat, without any manuring.

Well, Spring came; the frost had done its part; the field was sowed with one bushel of wheat to the arpent; there was comparatively little trouble in harrowing; the fall came in due time, and our friend was rewarded with eighteen bushels for every bushel of seed. Next year the field was seeded down with oats, having about six barique of lime to the acre. For several years that field continued to give good average crops of timothy, the seed from which was awarded the first premium at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, and, to this day, that field shows the value of that one deep ploughing.

Now, if a few of our farmers, who have heavy unproductive clay farms would try this experiment, even upon a small scale at first, say one acre, we feel persuaded that they will not only be well rewarded for their pains, but also that they will bear out much more than we have said upon the subject. Do not go to the expense of procuring a subsoil plough at first, but take a little time with a good strong team; take a narrower and a deeper slice, turning up to the action of the weather three inches of the hitherto undisturbed subsoil. The expense of trying a quarter of an acre cannot be much. The quantity of land kept under crop is of far less importance than the quality of the work that is done. Indeed we feel persuaded that nine-tenths of our far-