

*To Messrs. the President and Directors of the Agricultural
Society of Lower Canada.*

GENTLEMEN AND COLLEAGUES.

The cause of agricultural progress, to which you devote both your observations and your labours, is impeded by an obstacle, which, so long as it is not removed, will render your efforts for the most part fruitless. The absence of capital, of which farmers might dispose, is the obstacle to which I allude. As is shewn in the following pages, the rotation of crops, the use of manure, drainage, artificial meadows, &c., &c., although undoubtedly great improvements and excellent things in themselves, will always be for the majority of the Canadian farmers, theories of a difficult application, so long as the pecuniary means are wanting, for the outlay which such improvements render necessary.

I felt this, even before I took a share in your labours.

Another question, which to Canada is of equal importance to the improvement of agriculture, and which has taken a still stronger hold of the public mind, has been discussed with great violence for several years past, and does not appear to have made any important advance towards a desirable solution; the want of capital which paralyses agriculture, proving also an obstacle to any progress in this direction.

In the present state of opinion in Canada, the Seigniorial Tenure can no longer subsist. We have now reached that point when it is the mutual interest of the Seigniors and of the Censitaires to bring the question to a final adjustment.

This has been for a long time admitted by every one; but