

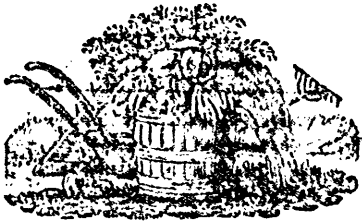
# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

DEVOTED TO THE AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS OF NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK,  
AND PRINCE EDWARD'S ISLAND.

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HALIFAX, N. S., JANUARY 16, 1843.

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Another year has elapsed of the time allotted to us, and we hear  
say here as well as in the great nation near us, who are of the  
the blood and who speak the same language with ourselves, com-  
plaining of the "times." Is this complaint well founded? Many  
answer that they remember the time that business was more  
thick, and when they could if they had pleased have lived as well  
they can now, and at the same time have saved considerable  
money. But has it ever been proved that men were any happier  
when they earned extraordinary wages, than at other times. Mo-  
ny in any quantity will not purchase health, sound sleep, nor a  
good appetite, although we have too often seen persons who had  
more than enough of it, ruin their health and enjoyments by fruit-  
less attempts to purchase a greater share of pleasure than has been  
allotted to our race. Are we not generally as ready to be extra-  
vagant, and to spend faster than we earn, when we have much as  
when we have less? Are we not tormenting ourselves by compar-  
ing our condition to that of the inhabitants of some Utopia which  
exists in our imagination? Who can point out the country  
removing to which Novascotians would be gamers? No one  
think of returning to the land of our forefathers; the "times"  
had there, multitudes able and willing to labour, cannot now  
secure employment, and are suffering for want of food. Shall we  
move to the Prairies of the West? Rich land free from stones  
can be procured there for 6s. 3d. per acre; food for any number of  
people will cost nothing except the labour of making the hay; In-  
dian Corn and Wheat will yield great crops; Pork and Beef of  
the best in great quantities are easily procured. But there taxes  
must be paid, Iron and Salt must be procured, and Novascotians  
would feel very uncomfortable without many other articles which  
can only be procured with money. But it is very hard to procure  
an indispensable article there. Indian Corn is now selling at nine  
cents, and Wheat at 25 cents (fifteen pence) per bushel in that ter-  
ritory, and Beef and Pork will not pay for taking to market. In  
addition to this every one must expect to be sick with the Ague  
several months every year, and as often as every seventh year to see  
one-tenth of the population swept off by the bilious, or laka fever,  
diseases unknown here. There are within the limits of the Ame-  
rican Continent lands to be found of the most fertile description, in  
a healthy climate; but exposed to frequent earthquakes, and ruled  
by a Government that gives poor security for life or property,  
whatever way we turn we shall see a mixture of good and evil.  
If instead of fixing our attention upon the good things which

we lack, we would turn it to those we actually enjoy, we should see  
that we have much more than our equal share of the good things  
of this world, and that more than half the human race would think  
themselves fortunate if they could exchange circumstances with us.  
We have not felt the scourges of war or pestilence. Our seasons  
have been favourable, and all the necessaries of life are cheap and  
abundant all of which we have any reason to complain, has been  
caused by ourselves. The spirit of speculation, eager to acquire  
sudden wealth; and the habit of spending our income before it was  
earned, are what have brought us into trouble, and it is morally  
certain that industry and economy will bring us out of it. It is  
easy for us to turn back to the right road. We are very far behind  
some of our speculating neighbours; long, we hope and believe,  
will it be before Novascotians will think of repudiating their debts  
and their honor, yet is well to reflect upon an example which shews  
to what that spirit of speculation which seeks to acquire wealth at  
the expense of others, will finally lead. We are ignorant of what  
is best for us; it is often necessary that we should be compelled  
to reduce our expenses, which we are so apt to increase imperceptibly  
by new articles of luxury which add nothing to our happiness. If  
employment is not found for children, they will employ themselves  
in doing mischief, nor do they at any future period get entirely  
cured of this trick. The great Frederick of Prussia when he com-  
menced a war against the Empress and other neighbouring powers,  
published lengthy state papers, apparently proving that they had  
formed a plot to strip him of his kingdom and divide it among  
themselves. Many years after he wrote in his memoirs, that the real  
cause of the war was, that he was young and active, had a good  
opinion of his own talents, a full Treasury, and a good Army.  
Who can say that we should not now have had an American war,  
if their speculations had not emptied their treasury. The greater  
part of the wars that have desolated the earth, have been commenced  
from motives not greatly differing from those which animate the  
gambler, the excitement produced by danger and uncertainty; the  
love of gain, and the pride of victory. There has not for a long  
time been any cause for which a just or wise man would have been  
willing to go to war, but when a people have more than enough,  
they are too apt to neglect the dictates of justice and wisdom, and  
imitating the conduct of children, do mischief, because necessity  
does not compel them to do good. It cannot be denied that the  
British North American Colonies and the United States are now  
among the most favoured people of the earth. Experience ought  
by this time to have convinced all sensible men that a nation cannot  
thrive by projects to take money out of the pocket of one, and put  
it into that of another; and that *well directed industry and economy*  
*are the only means of procuring real wealth.* We can therefore if  
providence continues to favour us as it has done, make "good times"  
for ourselves, for all that we have to complain of has been our own  
work, and we can undo what we have done, nor is it necessary for  
this to trouble Rulers or representatives. The Ruler of each family  
may establish his own regulations.

It is customary at this season for Editors to present their readers  
with a summary of the good which they have done in the course of  
the past, and of that which they intend to do in the coming year.  
There must doubtless be some wisdom in this practice, or it would  
not be so general, but we do not possess the gift of praising our-

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