

those for whom their exertions are made. The New-Brunswick Agriculturist enters the field not as an opponent, but as a fellow-labourer in the common cause; and as the respective periodicals are published at a very reduced price, and within the reach of every farmer, it is hoped that every farmer will encourage and support these simultaneous undertakings, as each of them will contribute to his scientific and practical knowledge. Our provinces have long wanted such efforts in behalf of the agriculturist; and it is to be regretted that the spirit which was kindled by the laudable efforts of the talented friend of Agriculture, the late and lamented JOHN YOUNG, Esq., of Halifax, so soon subsided. The example was worthy of a better following, and the cause of Agriculture in our provinces of a more enduring zeal.

INTRODUCTION.

IN commencing an agricultural paper, intended for circulation in these provinces, the following questions naturally suggest themselves.

Are the provinces of New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia favourable for agricultural pursuits? What advantages do they possess, and what are the disadvantages which attend them?

Do the objections which have been urged against them originate in the errors of the objectors, or in the severities of the climate, and the incapacities of the soil?

What is the present state of agriculture in these provinces?

And in what particulars does it require improvement, and what improvements are most applicable to it?

These are interesting questions, and a full reply to them would involve enquiries and discussions too extensive for the limits of a paper, but we shall endeavour to furnish some general answers, sufficient to prove that our provinces do possess great agricultural capabilities—that the objections, which have been advanced, are in many instan-

ces and respects, without foundation—that the capabilities of the soil are great, that the climate, although severe, is sufficient for the growth and ripening of many of the agricultural necessities and luxuries of life; and that those, who complain of the shortness of the summers, and the length and severity of the winters ought to examine and correct their own defective systems, characterized by a want of economy in time, and of convenience in the implements of husbandry, and in rural arrangements, which shorten a short season, and which, if improved would reduce the labour of the husbandman, and remove many of his complaints about the hurry of work.

The provinces of New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia can boast of every variety of soil from the light sand of the plains, to the rich and inexhaustible alluvial of our marshes. The tops of our mountains—their sloping sides—the fertile soil at the bases of them, and other arable lands, which are terminated either by fresh water intervals or productive dyke lands and salt marshes, unitedly form a whole, which only requires the judgement and industry of enlightened agriculturists, to bring into successful operation. As different soils are fitted to different vegetable growths; the science of agriculture must point out the adaptation of the seed to the proper soil, in order to ensure successful cultivation. Inattention to the fitness of the soil and seed is a frequent cause of failure, for it is a well established fact, that the properties of a plant will oftentimes vary according to the peculiarity of the soil, which nourishes it. We have a familiar illustration of this influence of soil, in the growth of our potatoe; the same seed will in one soil produce a dry and mealy potatoe, and in another, a waxy, disagreeable and watery vegetable. This adaptation is of the utmost importance; and the neglect of it not only gives rise to disappointment, but also to complaints against the seed, the season or the soil, which are exclusively referrible to the ignorance of the husbandman. Providence has wisely ordered that particular plants should flourish