

farmer in the way of affording to him a market for his productions. It is a fact that they are in the constant habit of importing articles that might be furnished here on as good terms, and would be furnished were our farmers certain of being able to dispose of them. The market regulations too of our principal towns, and particularly of Fredericton, are but poorly calculated to awaken enterprise in the Country. The laws against forestalling compel the countrymen to hawk his produce from street to street and from house to house at loss of time nearly equal in value to what he receives for his sales. We doubt if these laws are of any advantage to the poor of the towns whom they are intended to protect. If traders were permitted to purchase freely and at pleasure from the Country, the competition among them would always hold prices at a fair rate, and the consumer would soon prefer buying of the trader rather than the farmer.

We have noticed, not unfrequently, in the fall and winter seasons that persons have been compelled, after fruitless endeavours to dispose of their meats at very low rates, to carry them back to their homes, while the merchant who then refused to pay them their three-pence or four-pence a pound for Pork has, in the course of the following Spring and Summer, paid at the rate of five-pence and six-pence a pound for Canada and United States Pork, and then perhaps joined in the outcry against the country that would do so little towards furnishing its inhabitants with provisions.

We have often thought that it would be an object to any one possessed of capital to the extent of a few hundred pounds to open an establishment at Fredericton, for the exclusive purpose of purchasing all kinds of country produce with a view to selling it again both by wholesale and retail—large quantities of Butter, Cheese, Pork, Beef, &c. might then be bought up at the seasons when those articles are ready for sale, and kept on hand to be resold again either to retailers or for actual consumption. In the articles of Pork and Beef we are satisfied a profitable business might be carried on; for the difference in the prices of those commodities in the Fall when they are brought from the country and the following Summer is always such as would afford a handsome profit. A few establishments of this kind in the principal towns throughout the Province, would, we are persuaded, give such a stimulus to the farming interest as would in a short time have the most favorable and visible effect, both upon the circumstances of our farmers and the character of their employments.

DOES A FARMER REQUIRE EDUCATION?

A very ancient Historian mentions a custom of the Babylonians, which he highly commends for its wisdom. They were wont to carry their sick into the most public and frequented place, and it was binding on those who passed by to inquire the nature of the disease, that if they themselves had been afflicted in a similar manner, or knew of others who had suffered the same, they might inform the sick man of the remedies which had been successfully employed. This method of treating diseases would create astonishment if adopted in the present day, and the time may come when the present unscientific methods of cultivating the land will be regarded with somewhat similar feelings of wonder. In the profession of medicine, a knowledge of anatomy, botany and chemistry, more extensive than that which is ordinarily possessed, is essential for a practitioner; and this knowledge requires to be combined with some degree of experience, before the application of remedies in difficult cases becomes any thing more than a leap in the dark: and yet it is very generally imagined that the ground can be tilled without the possession of any knowledge directly bearing upon the subject. A greater error cannot exist: some knowledge of the properties of different soils; some acquaintance with the chemical changes, which substances undergo in combination, and the effect which certain ingredients will have upon the growth of a plant; a familiarity with botany, as far as it relates to the culture of plants, trees and fruits; and a knowledge of the natural history of domestic animals, ought to be regarded as the lowest amount of intellectual capital which a good farmer should possess. It cannot be pleaded, that in farming there is no scope for the application of knowledge of the highest kind, and consequently no inducement to the acquisition of it: are not mineralogy, chemistry, and botany intimately connected with almost every department of agricultural operations? While scientific knowledge was in its infancy, men might well be excused for following the practices of their ancestors, but now that the most rapid advance has been made in every department of science, no excuse can be admitted for negligence in making improvements, or adopting the method which others have discovered for increasing the productiveness of the soil. It must be obvious therefore that a sound, and by no means limited, education is requisite for every agriculturalist, who wishes to avail himself of all facilities which the advanced state of science affords, for carrying the art of farming to the highest degree of perfection of which it is capable. It can scarcely excite surprise that the avocation of a farmer is held in slight estimation if its capabilities for exercising the intellect are under-rated; and it is regarded as a matter of mere physical strength, an occupation involving much drudgery, and demanding well developed muscles, but one that is ill adapted to

It is estimated the Wheat crop of Ohio, the present year, will be nearly 20,000,000 bushels; an amount double the annual consumption of the State. The surplus at 60 cents a bushel, will produce six millions of dollars.