

for them, unless they are in drills and hoed, and that is seldom done in Canada. Indeed, unfermented manure is very unsafe to use, except for drilled crops where any weeds that grow from it may be destroyed by hoeing. Summer fallow is very little practised in Lower Canada, and it cannot certainly be from any objection to waste the land for a year, because we see almost upon every farm some land little better than waste. An acre properly summer-fallowed would produce a crop of double the value of an acre that was not so cultivated, and the expense would not be very great. It is not one good crop only that it would give, but perhaps three or four, and the land would certainly be clean. It is of very little benefit to grow crops that are not free from weeds, and it is altogether inconsistent with good farming to allow them to grow in cultivated crops. Fall wheat is far from being an even crop this year. The last winter has left fall wheat very patchey, and we believe there are not many fields of it in Lower Canada that have not suffered more or less. Where it was deeply covered with snow, last winter, we have been told the plant has been destroyed, we suppose from being too deeply, and too long, covered from air and light. It is very annoying to a farmer to see a field which he had done all he could to cultivate well, and sow in time, have many spots or patches in spring, where the plants are destroyed by the frost. This circumstance is a great discouragement to the sowing fall wheat to any great extent, though we think it might be successfully cultivated, by adopting a proper plan on summer-fallowed land. The land should be formed into small drills, at about 9 or 10 inches from centre to centre, so as to make about 10 or 12 drills on each ridge of 9 feet wide. The seed might then be sowed broadcast, and the land lightly harrowed, so as to cover the seed, but not to level the drills. We have repeatedly recommended this plan, but it cannot be adopted except on land that has been summer-fallowed. If fall wheat would succeed, it would be a great advantage

to farmers, as they would have so much of their work done before the hurry produced by our short spring. This year we had no spring weather in April, the transition was at once from winter to summer, though the temperature has not ranged high up to this period. Potatoes have brought high prices lately, 5s. the bag, said to contain one minot and a half. They would pay well if even a moderate crop could be raised, at these prices. Farmers do not like to give up the cultivation of potatoes, notwithstanding the uncertainty of the crop, and the danger of rotting in the cellars or root-house. The best variety of the potato for the table are the safest to plant. The driest and smallest potatoes are less liable to the rot than the larger and softer varieties, and special manures, such as compost ashes, charcoal, and salt, though the latter cannot be considered a manure, are considered better and safer than that of the farm-yard. Composts are not attended to as they should be. The quantity of manure might be greatly increased by composts formed of cleanings of drains, moss, ashes, lime, salt, and any spare farm-yard manure, liquid manure might also be thrown over it, and all should be turned over and well mixed. This would be good for top-dressing, and for potatoes or other root crops, sugar, beet, and even the mangel wurzel, and carrot, are said to succeed better, but particularly the former, after a crop of grain, (oats or barley,) manured had been taken off the land, and we have no doubt but it would prove so in practice. The manure gets to be well rotted and incorporated with the soil, and hence more suitable for these sort of crops. We perceive by our exchange papers that a steam plough has made several experimental trials lately near Edinburgh, and is reported to have succeeded very well. It will plough 7 acres (Scotch we believe, which is considerably larger than the English acre), in ten hours, at an expense of from 16 to 18 shillings, or about 2s. 6d. the acre. It turns four furrows at a time, and may be made to turn six. The first cost of the implement is about £300, but the engine can