

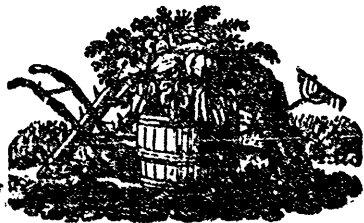
# THE COLONIAL FARMER,

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

VOL. 2.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 1, 1843.

NO. 15.



## THE COLONIAL FARMER.

HALIFAX, N. S., FEBRUARY 1, 1843.

The past season was very favourable to the growth of Grain and potatoes; of which there has been more than an average crop throughout the Province. The frequent light rains in the early part of the Summer were favourable to the Grain and Grass crops. This was succeeded by a spell of hot dry weather, which commenced so early on the Gulf shore, that the hay there proved a very light crop, but in almost all the remainder of the Province the hay was above an average; the drought commencing later, and being rather favourable to the grain and potatoes, which rarely fail well in hot weather.

From several causes the price of country produce have this year been very low. Some years back the coldness of the season occasioned a scarcity of provision in the neighbouring States. The natural consequence; with that people, was, to cause greater exertion on the part of the farmers, which, aided by a favourable change in the weather has produced a glut of the necessaries of life, which are now sold at very low prices. It would be impossible to keep up a high price of anything here, that sells very low elsewhere, as most people must be sensible who have travelled much on the shores of this Province. Another cause of this depression is found in the failure of the lumber business. The persons employed in Shipbuilding, and getting out Timber, used to purchase the surplus produce of the Farmers near them. It has in consequence of the failure of this business become necessary for many to seek a new market, which is not now easily found. Halifax and Newfoundland markets have been glutted, especially with half fattened grass beef, much of which has been retailed, by the market, at three coppers a pound and less, as it is not fit to cure for exportation although it will do to cure with molasses or coarse sugar and very little salt, for to use through the cool season; but if it is thoroughly salted it would be so robbed of its juices that it would be hardly eatable.

Many on the Gulf Shore, alarmed by the scantiness of their hay, have disposed of considerable part of their Cattle for a very low price indeed. As there is without doubt a sufficient quantity of hay in the Province to winter all the cattle, it is certainly desirable that there were some way of disposing of Cattle without killing them when half fattened, or not fattened at all. If there were Fairs like those in the old country where they who have an surplus of hay could purchase cattle to winter, and they who have large crops of potatoes or Swedish Turnips, could procure

half-fattened cattle when they could make fit for barrelling, it would be an advantage to all parties.

When our surplus produce falls much below the price we expected, we have the satisfaction of thinking, that our loss must be a great benefit to the multitude of poor whom distress is constantly driving from Europe to America. They can at their first arrival earn but little, working at new employments which they never had learned, but a little will support them when food is as plentiful as it is at present. That Providence which overrules all our doings, often compels those who have more than enough, to assist the distressed, whether they will or not.

There is another subject that well deserves our attention;—the great advantage we possess in living on our own lands. Were we a Province of Tenants at a money rent; it would be virtually doubled by the present prices, and we should be really distressed. Let us therefore resolutely oppose the two enemies who have so often driven industrious people off their lands;—the habits of spending more than we earn, and the mania of speculation. Let us observe a strict economy, and persevering industry. Let any slight reverse have its proper effect, of rousing us to greater exertion, rather than producing childish complaints. We have much to be thankful for. They who are acquainted with the history of past times, and with the present condition of the nations of the earth, know, that at this moment there are very few, and that in all recorded times gone by, there have been very few, who enjoyed in an equal degree with ourselves, the blessings of Liberty, Peace, a protecting Government, freedom from heavy Imposts and taxes, and a healthy climate, with the prospect of leaving our children in a country where they will have no difficulty in supporting themselves by their industry.

The great Farmer Poet of antiquity represents Jupiter disapproving the torpid condition of man in the "Golden Age" when all his wants were supplied without any exertion on his part; and therefore introducing evils into the earth, to arouse the energy of his mind, and make him exert his resolution and ingenuity to overcome them. There is wisdom in this allegory. A certain portion of difficulty is often useful, by rousing us, and making us shake off the laziness of our minds. When we consider the hardships to which the ancestors of many of us, the first settlers of New England were exposed, their great losses of life and property in their perpetual war with the Indians, (for in the Narraganset war alone, the tenth part of the men fell, and the tenth part of their towns were burnt,) and that they still persevered, and succeeded in settling the country, and laying the foundation of a great nation, we must feel ashamed of the idea of being disheartened by any difficulty that we have met with.

Clover seed is separated from the husks by threshing, frequently sifting the seed from the chaff to prevent it from being broken by the flail. It is a tedious operation, and for this reason when large quantities are raised, machinery is generally used to clean it. When produce is low the farmer should always raise his own seed, which he will have no occasion to separate from the chaff, as when the heads are in pieces it grows as well, and is as easily sowed as if the seed were separated from the husk. Never attempt to raise seed from the first growth, but mow it when two thirds grown,—