desired quantity of vegetable manure. We feel warranted in predicting, that as soon as public attention has been fully drawn to the subject, that ploughing under clover *ley* with *one furrow*, will be the most popular method for preparing land for wheat, especially on every description of light soils.

Bommer's Patent Method for making Compost Manure.—A letter from Mr. Ellsworth, chief of the Patent Office at Washington, shows conclusively, that after all the bragadocia which Bommer has practiced for the past 18 months, that he is not only a humbug, but may be placed at the head of the list of modern swindlers. Such a man, in our country, would have been expelled from his country long since, and have received the just indignation of all honest men. It appears that he had been refused "a right" for his *invention*. The French mode of preparing the composts alluded to, is given in full, which shall be published in our next.

Hereford Cattle.—Wm. H. Sotham, near Albany, puffs his own herd of cattle into notice most magnificently. Really our neighbours are a modest people! The course which Mr. S. has adopted, will probably be the most successful one that could be practiced to bring his choice stock of Hereford cattle into successful notice, among the *prejudiced* judges of horned cattle in our enlightened neighbouring country. We wish him much success in his speculation. The Herefords are undoubtedly superior graziers, but when we hear their milking qualities brought into comparison with the Durhams, we are led to question the purity of the motives that influence the writer.

Lucern for Soiling.—A writer states that he has tried an experiment with lucern for soiling, which appears to answer his expectations. Only one instance has come under our notice, where this grass has been sown in Canada—it answered a good purpose, and the farmer who grew it said that he could safely recommend his brother farmers to sow it, on soils of a dry description.

Fatal Experiment.—A friend informs the editor that his neighbours having seen some publication recommending oil to kill caterpillars on fruit trees, applied oil to destroy worms on plum trees last spring, and all those trees died from the oil. A similar instance came under our notice last spring. A farmer rubbed his young apple trees with the inside of pork rind, which had the effect of killing both lice and trees.

Prevention of Smut in Wheat.—At a late agricultural meeting in Sussex, Eng., John Ellman, Esq., related the following account of an experiment in preventing smut in wheat. He took four sacks of smutty wheat, sowed one sack of it with brine only, as strong as he always made it, to bear an egg as large as a hen's; he sowed another with lime only; he sowed the third sack with brine, strong enough to bear an egg, and then let it lay in lime all night; and the fourth he sowed without any thing. The result was as follows:—Where the brine only was used, every now and then there was a smutty ear, still not many; where the lime only was used, there was much about the same quantity of smut; where the lime and brine was used, there could not be found a single smutty ear; and where nothing was used, it was a mass of smut.

The plan which we have practised, with the *Albany Cultivator*, is one which we shall adopt with a number of our most able cotemporaries. We have only one object in doing so, viz., the advancement of Canadian agriculture.

FLAX CULTURE.

The cultivation of flax has been frequently brought before the notice of the Canadian public, through the medium of the *Cultivator*, and we are happy to observe that the attention of a number of influential parties have been drawn to the importance of the subject. Three respectable farmers, in the neighbourhood of this city, have lately informed us that they intend to engage largely in the cultivation of this plant,—others of our acquaintance have said that they will sow a few acres by the way of trial,—and others appear anxious to obtain as much information as possible regarding the management of the crop;—and, we have no doubt, there are scores from whom we have not heard, who are prepared to engage in its cultivation.

We have frequently urged upon our readers the propriety of organizing flax and hemp societies, for the encouragement of the growth of these plants; and would have urged the matter still more forcibly upon the attention of the public, had it not been, upon mature consideration, we have come to the conclusion, that a more efficient method to introduce the business, would be found in a general re-organization of Agricultural Associations, in such a manner as would tend to unite those societies in their efforts to introduce agricultural improvements. We have every reason to believe that we shall be successful in accomplishing this important matter, through the agency of the friends of agricultural improvement, in the course of the present winter.

If the three grades of associations, that are about being organized in the province, would devote a portion of their funds to the cultivation of flax and hemp, a simultaneous movement would thus be made throughout the length and breadth of the land, which would have the effect of adding an important item to the exports of the colony. It would also be the means of giving profitable employment to capital and labour, during the winter months.

With the present limited knowledge that the Canadian agriculturists possess, on the culture and after management of these crops, the article which they would produce, would not be worth more than £30 per ton, for exportation, and about £35 per ton for the present home consumption: whereas, if the most approved and scientific plans were pursued in its culture and preparation for market, a quality of flax might be produced, that would be worth, in the Toronto market, not less than £60 per ton, for exportation. This fact alone should stimulate the farmers to unite their efforts in establishing friendly associations, for propagating useful knowledge, and discussing matters directly connected with their individual and general welfare.

The present prices of Irish flax, in Belfast, are, mill-scutched, fine, 7s. to 9s. sterling, per stone, hand-scutched, from 4s. 6d to 5s., per stone. The best samples of Belgian flax, is worth in the above market from £80 to £100 sterling, per ton.

The climate and soil of British America are admirably well calculated to produce this plant to perfection; and we flatter ourselves, that within a few years, the Irish flax spinners will have just grounds to eulogize the article which, we are of opinion, will be grown, prepared, and shipped to the Irish market, from this country. Nothing can be effectually and properly accomplished without union. If the educated and patriotic unite, and concentrate their efforts in a proper channel, an entire revolution will shortly be brought about in the agricultural affairs of this colony,—we mean to say that every branch of business would resume a healthy and prosperous appearance, and this country would be justly entitled to the high encomiums bestowed upon it, by the friends of Canada, in Britain. In anticipation of this union, we shall, from time to time, give practical instructions, not only on the subject before us, but on every branch of agriculture.

A system has been pursued in Belgium, for a long period, called "The Factor System," which, if introduced in this country, would be calculated to effect the greatest possible benefit to those who are disposed to engage in the cultivation of flax. The system being, that individuals, possessing capital, purchase the flax while on the ground, from the farmer, who undertake the pulling and all subsequent treatment of the crop, which is performed under the immediate superintendence of competent persons. The farmer, by this arrangement, would obtain a fair price for his crop, without the risk of loss, by improper management. The factors, or purchasers of the crop while in its raw state, would find it a profitable business,—and probably more so than any other branch of trade in the country.

As soon as the Provincial Agricultural Society be organized, which we hope will be the case before the lapse of the present winter, a comprehensive and simple plan for entering largely into the cultivation of this crop, will then be laid before that body, for their consideration and approval, which, if assented to, will be published for the benefit of the public.

In the meantime, we trust that the importance of engaging in this branch of industry will not be lost sight of, by the intelligent farmers in the country. We promise them our assistance, and if only they follow out the advice that will be given them monthly, on this, and many other important subjects, we are confident that they will never have just grounds to repent.

PURIFIED HONEY.—The following mode of purifying honey is recommended by Siller,—"Any quantity of honey is dissolved in an equal part, by weight, of water. The liquid is allowed to boil up four or six times, without skimming; it is then removed from the fire, and after being cooled, brought on several strong linen strainers, stretched horizontally, and covered with a layer of clean and well-washed sand, an inch in depth. When the solution has passed through the strainers, it is found to be of the colour of clear, white wine; the sand being allowed to remain on the strainers, is rinsed with cold water, and the whole of the liquor is finally evaporated to the thickness of syrup."