

per knowledge of growing and managing flax, and by this means have greatly improved the quality and value of flax in Ireland. 'This country we believe is equal, if not superior to any part of the Netherlands, for the production of flax and hemp, and yet we have made no attempt to produce either. The first thing that would be required to encourage the growth of these plants, would be the establishment of manufactories that would purchase the flax and hemp from the farmer in the field immediately after it was dried and stacked—and the manufactories prepare it for exportation. If this plan was adopted we should soon have large quantities of hemp, flax, and the seed of both to send to England. We may also have beef, pork, butter, and cheese in abundance to export.

Farmers in the country are not aware of the necessity that exists that butter intended for the British markets must be carefully put up in a certain description of cask, and no other. We shall in a future number give a drawing of the sort of butter cask required, its size, &c. As we have frequently observed already, it is through the instrumentality of a Board of Agriculture established in Montreal—the Seat of Government, that we would expect a new stimulus would be given to the improvement of Canadian Agriculture. It is from such a Board, properly conducted, that instruction and encouragement would come to the people, without suspicion or distrust, and would have influence upon them accordingly. One would imagine that the improvement and prosperity of agriculture, that is the only means of support to nine-tenths of the Canadian population, would be a matter of some importance though it has not appeared to be considered so hitherto. A Museum—a repository for Agricultural implements, seeds, &c.—an Agricultural Library—and a Journal of Agriculture, published monthly in English and French, should be connected with, or under the management of the general Board of Agriculture. All this machinery might be put into active operation for an amount of expense that would not equal the improvement that might soon be effected in *one parish*, by their means. We may be considered too sanguine, but we believe nevertheless, the experiment fairly made, would more than realize our full expectations. It is not a new plan we propose, but one that is already in operation in almost every Christian country—and certainly it is not less necessary for us, however naturally clever and intelligent we may be. The first in power, rank and station in our Father-land, are proud to come forward on every occasion to support and countenance the improvement of Agriculture. The Paymaster of the Forces, in addressing an Agricultural meeting, on a late occasion at Faversham, made the following observations:

"He did not feel competent to stand there and offer to those acting, and practically engaged in agriculture, and who possessed more skill and experience than himself, anything like advice or instruction upon the subject; but this he would say, that it was necessary at all times, but in a more special degree at the present moment, for them to devote to their occupations their best energies, and the

greatest attention and skill which they could command. (*Hear, hear, hear.*)"

The King of Belgium, at the opening of his Legislative Chambers in November last, made use of the following observations in reference to Agriculture:—

My Government will henceforward devote its attention to establish a sound system of agriculture, with the double view of industrial usefulness and the necessities of finance.

Belgium, so celebrated for its agricultural improvement, is, however, surrounded by uncultivated lands. My Government will, therefore, ask you for powers to effect a result which shall procure for our people new resources.

Thus we find Agriculture to be an especial object for the attention of that Government.

Mr. D. Webster of the United States, at the late great Agricultural meeting at Rochester, said:—"At the foundation of all that is important in human life, lies the great business, the cultivation of the earth."

If we were to act as they do in England, (and we ought to be proud and happy to follow their example in most matters,) we would soon see Canadian Agriculture in a very different state from what it is now, and we would also find every other class in the country benefitted by this improvement. The Creator has given this country as large a share of natural advantages as any other country on earth, and the inhabitants only require to make a proper use of them to insure to them the most ample means of comfort and temporal happiness.

In the *Mark-Lane-Express* of the 4th December, we observed that the price of Canadian Mess Pork was from 44s. to 46s. per barrel, prime do. 40s. to 42s. Hams, dry, per cwt. 54s. to 68s., in salt, 32s. to 36s., duty 2s. 6d. per cwt. In the same paper, United States Mess Beef is rated at 37s. to 50s. per barrel, while Canadian old Mess is only 20s. to 28s. We hope the Beef sent home last fall will equal in price and character, that from the United States. It is a great mistake to suppose that our Canadian cattle are not capable of being so improved as to make the best of beef. It is beginning at the wrong end to make any attempt to improve the cattle without first improving their pasture and food. It does not require very heavy cattle to make the very best beef. In the London market, moderately sized beef and mutton generally brings one penny per pound more than the very large size. If we have cattle too large for our pastures and food, they will be reduced in proportion to their keep, and very much deteriorated in quality and usefulness to the farmer and the country. It is much better to raise and improve small sized stock by superior feeding, than to bring down, and reduce in size, large boned animals, by insufficient pasture, and other food. Moderate sized animals are more suitable for the climate, soil, and other circumstances of Canada than those that would be very large, and it is the opinion of the most experienced Agriculturists, that they will generally pay more for the food they consume, whether they are kept for the dairy or the shambles. Of course, the