

THE

Canadian Agriculturist.

OR

JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
OF UPPER CANADA.

VOL. XIV.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 16, 1862.

No. 24.

Close of the Year.

With this issue the volume of the *Agriculturist* for 1862 is completed; a year that has been pregnant with great events both in the old world and the new. In Europe thrones have been jeopardized, and commerce, especially the cotton manufacture, paralyzed; while on this continent the event which stands out in boldest relief in the whole course of its history,—the Civil War of the adjoining and hitherto happy and prosperous Republic,—has continued to be waged with increasing violence and desolation, with, we grieve to say, no immediate prospect of its being brought to a satisfactory termination. In Canada we have been blessed with peace, and, in most sections, with what may be considered on the whole an average, if not a bountiful harvest; circumstances that should call forth in every heart devout thankfulness to the Giver of all good. In the enjoyment of these inestimable blessings—peace and plenty—and possessing, under British Institutions, civil and religious liberty in its fullest application, it was becoming in us as a christian people to assemble together as was done the other day in the various places of worship throughout the land, in compliance with a proclamation of His Excellency, the honored Representative of our beloved Sovereign, to return thanks to Almighty God for the continuance of His mercies to us as people, forming an integrant portion of the great Empire of Britain. It is devoutly to be

wished that, being thus favoured by a gracious Providence, we may, as a people, rightly use the privileges and opportunities afforded us in continuing to improve our agriculture and all other industrial arts; living in unity and charity among ourselves, and cultivating a kindly and pacific spirit towards all our fellow creatures. With such thoughts and aspirations as these we are about closing our editorial labors for the year.

With respect to those labors it may at this time be permitted us to observe that no one can be more sensible of their imperfection and shortcomings than ourselves. With but little assistance from Societies and individuals in furnishing materials for our pages, it must be obvious to such as have an acquaintance with the management of agricultural periodicals, that *more time and practical information* are required of the conductors of a *fortnightly* publication, that it may have all the desirable characteristics, than we are able to command. To the pens that have rendered us aid by favoring us with contributions we hereby tender our hearty thanks, and trust that articles from their pens will enrich the pages of our next volume. Again we importune such as feel an interest in the objects of this journal, to send us occasional papers on subjects coming within the range of their practice, reading or observations; such contributions, however short or homely, will be always acceptable.

In consequence of the recent and great advance in the price of paper and the scarciness