

agriculture. A very numerous class of men, who in former times were considered as the hinds and drudges of Society, are now accustomed to see the labours and the products of the fields, occupy the attention, the talents, and the pursuits of some of the first men in the Empire. And there is no doubt, the late great improvements in agriculture in Great Britain, have been much owing to the diffusion of this zeal among the various classes of persons concerned in farming. But when people are fond of their pursuits, they are certainly less likely to stray into vice and folly, and more likely to pursue their undertakings and improvements with steady attention.

That the Habitant Farmers of this Province have in general a sufficiency of the mere means of existence, I believe; but that their comforts, and those of their families, might be much doled by the improved system, is, I believe no less certain; and I have no doubt that this reason will have its due influence with their Pastors, especially when I trust it will appear that a love for the practical extension and advancement of agriculture will prove a great safeguard against the intrusion of vice and folly.

With regard to that respectable class of men the Seigneurs of the Province, I have heard it indeed said, that it was not their interest to encourage improvements among the owners and occupiers of Concessions; in order, they should be in necessity of making frequent transfers or sales thereof. This appears so preposterous, that it is hardly possible to be a general case, for at the occupier is obliged to sell the land, on account of his being unable to gain a living on it, under the present practice of husbandry; none but a farmer who can practice a better mode, will find it worth his while to purchase; but it is hardly possible, a class of people, so comparatively well informed as the Seigneurs of this Province must likely be, can find it for a moment, not their interest to encourage the increase of the produce, * and thereby the increase of the value of the lands they have conceded, as well as those they have yet in their own possession, for undoubtedly, the value of these lands must rise in proportion to the value of the products they can be made to yield, by a superior mode of agriculture. This is seen on a slight view, but on more reflection, when it appears, that the additional quantity of food, yielded by the improved system, must tend greatly to increase the faculty of population, and the means of supporting it; the great interests, the holders of wood lands must have! thus to promote the rearing of a numerous race of skilful and industrious cultivators; is plain enough.

* It has been above shown, that the quantity of corn is likely to be much increased by a better mode of agriculture, and as it may happen, in that case that the exportation of ground corn, or wheat may be more frequent in this Province, the profits of the Corn Mills would be increased in proportion.