equality with them. Upon a prosperous agriculture in British America, depends, we are persuaded, the improvement and prosperity of these noble appendages of the British Empire, and they never can flourish without it.

Draining.

There is not a greater defect in Canadian agriculture, generally, than the want of sufficient draining. No operation connected with agriculture is of more vital importance to its successful Pursuit, than that which will secure the soil against the injurious effects of water. It is impossible to produce healthy, and good crops, on any land that is not sufficiently drained, no matter how much manure may be applied. It cannot be properly ploughed, harrowed, or kept free from weeds, and where this is the case, good or profitable crops cannot be expected. It is difficult to find in this country, a farm properly drained. There may not be any water on the surface of soil, and yet it may be very imperfectly drained, and not in a fit state for arable culture. Within the last few years, draining has produced more benefit to British agriculture, than any other improvement that has been introduced.—Indeed there is scarcely any improvement possible in arable culture on land that is not sufficiently drained. At present, in the British Isles, the chief attention of both the proprietors of land, and the farmers, is directed to the more perfect drainage of the soil. There is not any means in our power, by which so great an improvement can be effected in land, as by draining, particularly, if the soil is strong clay. In British America, strong clay soils are never in a proper state to plough, work, or produce a crop, unless they are well drained. They must at all times be too hard or too soft.

At a late meeting of the Rutland Agricultural Society, Wm. Shaw, Esq., Editor of the Mark Lane Express, and a member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, being present, his health was given, and in returning thanks that gentleman made the following observation with regard to draining:—"That he trusted the landlords present, possessing as they did the power and the means of promoting agricultural improvement in the most efficient manner, would not lay themselves open to the charge of failing to do so, by neglecting to provide good and sufficient drainage for the land of their tenantry. In the session of Parliament which preceded the last, a most important step was made towards a general drainage, by the passing of an act to enable the owners of entailed estates to raise money for that purpose, and to charge the estate with the expense. That was one step; but another and a most important measure had been proposed by a gentleman who was most zealous in the cause of agriculture, and who was now President of the Royal Agricultural Society, by which it was contemplated to obtain power to make main drains through the whole country, through which the water from the surface drains might be carried off, and by which many thousands of acres, in many places lying together, and now valueless, might be rendered valuable; these main drains, if he might be permitted the term, would be the turnpike road of drainage, into which the smaller drains, as the high ways, would run." Perhaps there is not in England a more zealous, friend of agricultural improvement and prosperity than this gentleman,—and if he sees the great necessity for additional drainage in England, the best cultivated country in Europe, we may well suppose how much drainage is required in this new, and generally flat country. In the Supplement to our Treatise on Agriculture, we suggested the great necessity of making large main drains, where they were very much required, and in situations where great improvement might be effected by them. Such main drains are essentially necessary in very many places in this country, and without them, the land in those places never can be properly drained.

Statistics of Agriculture.

We have long experienced the want of accurate Statistical information of the state of Canadian Agriculture. It is only by such information that we can become acquainted with its defects, and be able to suggest suitable remedies. We have often been surprised at the form of printed papers sent out to this colony by the home government, to be filled up here, and returned to England. Queries were put in these papers to be answered here, that it was impossible to answer accurately, from any information in the possession of any individual, or department in the country. If such information was not considered by the home government, both useful and necessary, we may reasonably suppose no such inquiries would be made. We took liberty of submitting this matter to the notice of the late Governor General, and transmitted at the same time, a number of queries which we conceived might be answered by the resident clergy, or by parish officers, if there was a law authorizing such queries to be made. We know that agricultural queries have been sent to the resident clergy in England, and tabulated answers received from them. The following queries are a copy of those we refer to, as having submitted to the late Lord Sydenham, with a few added to them. They are not exactly similar to the queries made in England, but we conceive they are such as are suitable for British America:—

Name the Parish.

Extent in Acres.

Number and size of Farms.

Nature and depth of the soil.

Nature of the sub-soil.

State of Drainage.

Number of acres under plough.

Usual course of crops.

Whether weeding the crops is generally practiced.

Number of acres in Meadow.

Number of acres in Pasture, and state the quality of the pasture, and what proportion of it has been cultivated.

Number of acres in waste, but occupied—what proportion is capable of cultivation—whether all is bearing wood, and the value of the wood.

Number of acres of unoccupied waste, its quality and suitableness for settlement and cultivation.

Average quantity of hay from artificial grasses, and from natural grasses.

Number of acres, and quantity produced, of wheat, rye, barley, oats, buck-wheat, Indian corn, peas, beans, and other grains, not specified in the years 1840, and 1841, each separately.

Number of acres cultivated for hops, and probable produce.

Number of acres, and produce of potatoes.

Number of acres under any other green crops.

Number of acres under summer fallow.

State how the process is executed generally, and if fallowing is found to be beneficial to the soil, and the production of crops.

Number of horses employed in agriculture, and other purposes, and whether generally geldings.

Number of working oxen.

Number of oxen annually fattened, on grass and stall fed, each separately.

Number of grazing cattle, and milch cows, each separately, and their breed, quality, and value.

Number of calves bred in the year for rearing and for meat.

Number of sheep of the long-woolled breed, their quality, and the average weight of each fleece.

Number of sheep of the short-woolled breed, their quality, and the average weight of each fleece.

Number of lambs bred in the year for rearing, and for meat, and the average mortality until weaned, per hundred born.

Number of sheep of all descriptions, sheared in a year, the breed, quality, and value of sheep generally.

Number of swine fattened in the year, what food they are generally fattened upon, their average weight, and what probable porportion sold.

Quantity and description of cheese and butter, made in a year, each separately, and what probable quantity of each may be sold.

What is the state of the roads, and how repaired.

What is the state of water communication, if there is any, might it be made useful and how.

What is the rate of wages for all description of servants and labourers, and the probable numbers employed by farmers. State if farm labourers are to be had at all times to meet the demand for them. State whether there are any domestic manufactories carried on—describe what they are, and the extent and value of the manufactures, together with the number of persons employed in them, and the wages they obtain.

Give any other useful information that will have a tendency to show the true state of agriculture in the parish, both as regards capital and the want of it.

Answers to these queries would give us some idea of the state of the country, and what measures it would be best to adopt to remedy any defects in our system. The physician will not know what medicine to administer to his patient unless he knows the nature of his complaint.—Let it not be supposed that it is our wish to represent agriculture in a depressed state if it is not so. We only wish the subject to be fairly investigated that is of so much importance to the vast majority of the inhabitants of British America.

We have copied the following observations that have some reference to Agricultural Statistics, from the Quarterly Journal of the Statistical Society of England. These observations are perfectly correct in stating that if any advantage could be gained by any party, from a knowledge of the true state of agriculture, and its produce, means would very soon be found to obtain the most perfectly accurate information on every point desired. The great obstacle in all these matters is—the want of feeling sufficient interest