

THE CULTIVATION OF FLAX.

The season for pulling flax will shortly be at hand; and as some of the Canadian farmers may be anxious to obtain further information in relation to the best mode of preparing the fibre for market, we shall, for their especial benefit, give insertion to the following extracts from Mr. Dickson's essays upon flax culture, which we copy from that very excellent paper the *London Agricultural Gazette*.

No doubt some are of opinion that we devote by far too much space in our magazine with the subject of flax and hemp culture, but to such we would say, that its importance would fully warrant a much greater share of our attention.—The present article, taken in connection with the one in the July number of the *Cultivator*, as well as the various articles upon the same subject in previous numbers, will certainly convince every man of sound judgment, that the flax crop is highly remunerating when cultivated and managed upon the most improved plans; we therefore consider that we have done our part in endeavouring to convince the cultivators of the soil of the propriety of adding this important staple for export to their list, which in due course of time would equal, if not exceed in value, that of all the other exports of Canada, especially if that attention were given to it that it so obviously merits.—We have no desire to tire our readers with our views upon this or any other agricultural question; our only object in so liberally discussing the flax and hemp question was, to benefit the classes whose interests we have been advocating for the past four years; and if we have failed in accomplishing as much as was desired, we flatter ourselves that no blame can be attached to us. It is our intention to dismiss this subject; and in all proba-

ility it will not be adverted to again in the current volume, and most likely not to any extent until the results of a few years' practical operations upon our farm with these crops will better qualify us to speak with more assurance regarding their profitableness for home and foreign consumption.

It is our present intention to engage very largely in the cultivation of flax, believing that it will remunerate better than any other crop the cultivation of which we are acquainted, and shall employ the best labour-saving machinery that the country will afford.

There is no possible danger of overstocking the market; for it should be remembered that the annual importation of lint and flax seeds to the British Isles, equal the enormous amount of *ten millions of pounds sterling*, not a sixpence of which finds its way into the British American Provinces. In 1844 there were sown in six small counties in the North of Ireland, no less than 285,600 bushels of foreign flax seed, costing about \$600,000—who would say but that the Irish market could be supplied with flax seed as well from Canada as any other country? Certainly every man in his sober senses must admit that an annual income of about one million of dollars would be a very handsome thing for a new country like Canada to derive from a hitherto neglected product. If what we have recommended on former occasions be practiced, we feel confident in the opinion that a much greater value of flax seed than this would be sent to Great Britain annually from Canada. We have recommended, pressed, and almost begged the farmers of this country to engage in the cultivation of both flax and hemp, and once for all we say, that we shall urge the question no further, but shall engage