

Agricultural Societies should Patronise Agricultural Papers.

The principal object that Government had in view in so liberally endowing Agricultural Societies, was to give a stimulus to improvement in this important branch of industry. In some sections of the country mighty changes in agriculture have been effected through the instrumentality of those valuable institutions; and by examining the subject closely, it will be found, that where the farmers are characterised for their zeal in carrying out the leading agricultural improvements of the day, they are supplied with an ably-conducted agricultural paper, through the agency of an agricultural society. This principle of supporting journals devoted almost exclusively to agriculture, is so wisely calculated to make agricultural societies popular, that where they are based and carried out on sound principles, almost every friend to his country cannot otherwise but patronise them. Every man gets more than his subscription for, whether he draws a prize or not; and if he be successful in the latter, it makes the prize appear more valuable than if procured on the old system, inasmuch as it would appear as though he had really not contributed anything towards the funds of the society. By affording a magazine, which every one would consider cheap at a dollar, for half that sum, is simply giving 50 per cent discount to the societies, which would otherwise be appropriated to travelling or local agents. The public mind has become so well informed upon this subject, and agricultural journals and other publications that treat on the science and practice of agriculture are now so highly appreciated by the intelligent portion of the farmers, that it is almost needless to occupy much space with these topics; but for fear it may be thought by some that this mode of supporting agricultural societies and papers is not held in esteem by those who are as well qualified to judge of its merits as ourselves, we would conclude these remarks by making a few extracts from the *Chatham Gleaner*, of the 23rd December last, which are to the point, and show most conclusively that it is of the greatest importance that the farmers of Canada should look well to their true interests at this important crisis.

"Every farmer is not a scientific man, few have more than a common education, and a large portion can neither read nor write, the assertion may neither be pleasing nor palatable, yet none, we presume, will gainsay it. And a third difficulty in

the spreading of useful information is detected in this fact,—the farmer, ever characterised for his prejudices, opposes any thing like innovation on the practice of his immediate predecessors, and still, struggling against the stream of increasing knowledge, continues to plod. In writing this, at the present time, our principle object is to get the attention of the farmer directed to these means within his reach, which will enable him to see clearly the advantages, which must accrue to him from a more ready accommodation on his part, to the improved practices of the day. And next and foremost, is the general establishment of Agricultural Societies. As an encouragement to the erection of these valuable institutions, the Provincial government has enacted a statute, whereby it promises to treble the sum subscribed by any district for this purpose. Assistance such as this is most generous, and neglect on the part of any district, or township, to avail itself of the proffered aid, is worse than ingratitude. We, therefore, say to the farmers, awake! exert yourselves in establishing and supporting these institutions. In this district a society was formed some years ago, and still continues to exist, but in so languid a state that it requires every man's assistance to give it the power of doing good, to that extent its friends would wish. Like all institutions, it has had to pass through its infancy, and many have been the difficulties it has had to contend with, and many have been the faults it has committed, this arose chiefly from inexperience, and was to have been expected. During the past year a new constitution has been prepared, and will go into operation on the 1st January, 1846, copies of which can be had at this office, gratis; the society is to be organized for ten years; the sum of 1.50 shillings per annum, will entitle one to membership, and each member gets a *British American Cultivator*, free,—which is worth double the money. The benefits to be derived from a connection with this society are not confined to premiums awarded at its annual show; this is the least, and, as at present managed, may perhaps be considered an objection, on account of the bickering and dissatisfaction created by the decisions. Many, we know, have joined the society for no other earthly object than to get their ten or twenty shillings, and many others will not join, because, say they, I can't get a premium. Now, this is decidedly wrong and we think it would be an improvement if premiums were paid in instruments of husbandry, of approved character. But what narrow and selfish views such persons must have of the genial benefits of such an institution. What, as there neither pleasure or profit in communicating ideas; would a monthly meeting of the farmers in every township be deleterious to their interests; would the establishment of a Farmers' Library connected with the institution, a series of lectures, by some competent person, be either obnoxious or injurious, forsooth; we think, these long winter evenings, nothing could be more agreeable. To those who wish to grab a shilling with one hand, when they lay out sixpence with the other, we would say, the money you would subscribe being trebled by the government grant, is handed over to you again to do what you please with, in advancing agriculture; you are not obliged to ex-