

n few hours, all those unripened products, which, if their seeds had been sown sufficiently early, would have been secured from its power. Many others, through extreme unskillfulness, have suffered their doubts and fears about sowing their seeds at too early a period, to occasion the same delay and fatal result. In proof of what is here advanced, may be mentioned, what is well known to have been often the case, that of Farmers residing in the same settlement or neighbourhood, those who being skilled in their occupation, and attentive in its practice, deposited their seeds as early as the season would at all permit, have obtained a plentiful harvest; while those who deferred putting them in until later periods, have had to bewail the reverse.

With regard to the soil, it will in general be found, by the skillful and industrious Farmer, of such descriptions as cannot afford him any reasonable cause for complaint. Much was most ably and justly pronounced in its favor several years ago, by a talented writer, who went through such a course of scientific and instructive information on agricultural subjects, and set forth such powerful arguments to induce a closer attention to them here as awakened and sustained for a time, almost universal zeal and activity in their favor, and led to extensively beneficial results, which, in some degree, remain to the present day. Independent of any chemical explanation of the nature and properties of those ingredients which serve to bring to maturity the several products of the earth, and without attempting to show to what extent they exist in the soil in different parts of the Province, it may safely be affirmed, from facts and experience, which enable the most illiterate to judge, that, in several places, for the raising of grain of various descriptions and those vegetables which are most generally useful, it is fully equal to that of most Countries in the world. It has been declared by many, whose veracity there is no reason to doubt, and who were well acquainted with the soil in most parts of the Continent of North America, that there is scarcely a State or Colony throughout it, in which, within the same extent of territory, a greater portion of land of a fertile description is contained, than is to be found in this Province. With reference, especially, to the extensive tracts lying together in this valuable Country, and also in some others, it has often been proved, that their powers of production are as great, and that they can be made to bring to perfection as numerous a variety of the most useful products, as the most fertile soil in some of those Countries which have greatly excelled in agricultural pursuits. In one of our eastern counties, where the attention of the people has constantly, in a great degree, been led off to other occupations, considerable quantities of native wheat and flour were many years ago frequently exported. In some parts of that County, the returns from grain of various descriptions, and especially from wheat, have, even under a moderately skillful cultivation, been surprisingly great. The same has been the case in many other parts of the Province. Even the soil about the capital, which it is notorious is naturally as sterile and unproductive as almost any we have, has, under proper cultivation, been made to yield in what may very fairly be termed uncommon abundance. In further proof of the capabilities of this Country towards securing agricultural success, may be mentioned, what to many is known to be the case, that the increased attention and activity, which during some recent years, the farmers in this and some other sections of the Province have bestowed on their occupation, have led to a very general relief from incumbrances on their lands, and other pecuniary embarrassments, as well as to almost universal abundance of all the necessaries of life; and in not a few instances even to comparative wealth. Upon the whole, it is by no means too much to

affirm, that there is scarcely one of the counties, in which, in all ordinary seasons, there might not be produced a sufficiency of bread and of other requisite food, for the consumption of its Inhabitants, while in some of them, a superabundance could certainly be furnished. It is true there are some who deny these positions, but many of them being little, if at all, acquainted with the nature of the soil, or the general characteristics of the Country, as to agricultural purposes, are blameable for their hasty conclusions; while others are of that indolent and weak disposition, which become alarmed and discouraged when obstacles arise; and which sink under those difficulties which present themselves in every Country, in the first stages of its settlement and improvement. The misfortune, with us, has ever been, that in general the vegetable powers of our soil have not been sufficiently understood, or called into exercise. The indolent or unskillful husbandman, when he has failed of receiving the fruits of his fields as abundantly as he hoped will ever be more ready to charge it to their unprolific nature, or to any other cause, than to suspect any deficiency or fault in himself.

Having thus far mentioned impediments, and endeavoured to refute objections in the way of our agricultural advancement, it will be well to propose and explain some of the principal means which may most effectually be employed, to invigorate and improve that most important source of the real wealth and welfare of the Province. It may, then, in the first place be observed, that it is highly desirable, that persons, having extensive or liberal pecuniary means, should employ some reasonable and adequate portion of them, in introducing and preserving in the Country, the best and most suitable seeds and descriptions of cattle, and in making judicious experiments in agricultural science, as well as general improvements in its varied operations. It would, doubtless, in the permanent results, be equally, if not still more advantageous, if many of those persons in the upper and middle classes of society, who now indulge the weak ambition of establishing their Sons in some of the learned professions, or other employments, which exempt them from mere manual labor, but for which employments they are not naturally qualified, and therefore never succeed, but often become a burthen to their parents, or society, would, in preference secure their regular instruction in the various branches of scientific and practical husbandry, and their suitable establishments for obtaining a livelihood in that honorable and independent occupation. It is ground for satisfaction and encouragement, that some disposition of this kind is beginning to appear, and that some few instances of such a judicious and liberal minded destination of our youth, are now being exemplified. It is much to be hoped that similar examples of freedom from hurtful prejudice and puerile ambition, will be speedily and extensively multiplied. When such shall happily be the case, we may confidently anticipate through their stimulating operation, the early arrival of that period in our history, when our agricultural interest will take the prominent and respectable place in public opinion, and secure the share of general influence to which it is so justly entitled. Another, and indeed one of the principal means towards the desired improvement and success, our husbandmen themselves, must universally, afford increased and judicious attention and assiduity to the several branches and operations of their calling. The calling is one which demands undivided and persevering application; and which, especially in such a new Country as this, affords ample employment for every season of the year. At the opening of the spring, (which in this Province is of such short duration,) the more active engagements of the farmer commence