

## THE CROPS.

The prospects of the Canadian farmers were never brighter than at present.—Both winter and spring wheat look unusually fine, and in all probability the wheat harvest will come in by the latter part of July. Much of the winter wheat appears too gross, the cause of which must be attributed to the very objectionable practice of heavily manuring for this crop, with crude vegetable matter, upon soils naturally too fertile with this substance. Scores of farmers, whose wheat crops promise them a return of forty bushels per acre, will be greatly disappointed at having to harvest a large crop of damaged straw, giving a yield of some ten or fifteen bushels of an inferior sample per acre; whereas their more skilful neighbours, who have practiced the sound, common sense directions that have been given in the *Cultivator* for the past four years, will have both *straw and corn* in perfection, simply because they have adapted their system of managing the soil to the natural requirements of the wheat plant. Although the wheat crop appears ranker upon the ground than is desirable, still the chance for a good crop is much greater than if the season had been unfavourable to vegetation. The growth of the wheat plants have not been checked, unless in very unfavourable situations, and the result in a great number of cases will be, that the roots will strike very deeply in the subsoil, and convey to the stems and leaves of the plants, silica, potash, lime, and other substances in the subsoil which are calculated to give a hard outer surface, which will counteract the deleterious influence of rust with which this class of plants is so subject. It therefore may be pretty fairly premised that the causes of rust will not operate so preju-

diciously upon the wheat crops the present season as has been the case the past six years, and that a greater amount of good wheat will be harvested than usual. The prospects of the spring wheat crops could not be surpassed, where proper attention has been paid to the preparation of the soil, the selection of seed, and early sowing, as was recommended in the *March Cultivator*. If the harvest should come in favorable, there will be a sufficient quantity of spring wheat in the country to bread the whole population of Canada, and a considerable surplus, which should be exported across the Atlantic in wheat, instead of flour, as has been practiced of late years, to the prejudice of the Canada flour trade. There can scarcely be two opinions entertained respecting the great importance of the wheat crop to this colony, but it should be borne in mind, that it is a sure road to ruin for an agricultural country to depend upon only one great staple for export—oats, peas, barley, and the various other grains cultivated in Canada, promise a bountiful harvest.

Fruits, especially apples, cherries and plums, have partially escaped the frosts in this section of the province, and there is every reason to hope for a very liberal product of almost every variety of fruit grown in the country. The extreme southern or south-western townships have been visited with early frosts which destroyed the fruit, and the extreme northern with late frosts, which have done equally as much damage; but the interior townships, extending nearly eight hundred miles in length, have escaped any comparative injury from frosts at the period we are penning these remarks, and the prospect is that of an abundant yield of apples, pears, and stone fruits.