

Through the politeness of Mr. Thos. Champion of this city, we have been favoured with the following "Letters on Agricultural Improvement," which were published by their enlightened and zealous author in the cause, and distributed gratuitously by him to promote the great and important cause of national agricultural improvement. Those letters being six in number, will appear in this and subsequent numbers of the *Cultivator*, and we trust that our intelligent readers will receive, as we have done, much pleasure and benefit in their perusal.—There can scarcely be two opinions upon the point, that in Canada far too little capital and skill is invested in agricultural pursuits. In England capital is abundant, and labour is comparatively low to what it is in this country; but the inducements for investing capital in agriculture is not so great in that country as in this, inasmuch as a much higher rate of interest can be realised from money invested in this pursuit in the new world than in the old, when employed by men possessing a thorough practical knowledge of their noble and independent profession.

It would be folly for the farmers in this country to imitate the author of these letters in carrying out agricultural improvements, but the subject deserves much more attention at their hands than has hitherto been given it, and we trust the day is not far distant when every farmer will manifest *the will* to effect such substantial improvements upon his farm as will not only pay a handsome interest upon the investment, but will at the same time elevate his exalted calling in his own estimation. We have a desire to see the cultivators of the soil proud of the name of husbandmen, and this can best be done by becoming mas-

ters of the several branches of their profession.

## LETTERS ON AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT.

BY I. J. NECHI.

### LETTER I.

Sir,—As Agricultural Improvement is the order of the day, allow me to mention an extreme case—the expenditure of £6200 on a farm of nine, 130 acres (Tiptree-Hall, near Kelvedon, Essex,) that only cost £3250. In due course, when the results are accurately ascertained, I shall deem it my duty to submit statistical details and drawings of the buildings to every Agricultural Society in the Kingdom, in the hope it may give confidence to those who, having the means to improve their property, are doubtful as to such improvements paying a remunerating profit to both Landlord and Tenant. The expenditure above mentioned has been appropriated to

1st. The perfect and permanent drainage of the land with stones and pipes, 4 yards apart, and 32 inches deep—between 80 and 90 miles of drains.

2d. To the entire removal of all timber trees, which cannot be profitably grown in corn fields.

3d. To the removing all old, crooked, and unnecessary banks, fences and ditches.

4th. The cutting new parallel ditches and fences, so as to avoid short lands.

5th. The enclosure of waste, and conversion of useless bog into good soil.

6th. The economizing time and distance by new roads, arches, and more direct communications with the extremities of the farm.

7th. The erection of well-arranged farm-buildings, built of brick, iron, and slate, in a continuous range, excluding all cold winds and currents of air, but open to sunny warmth.

8th. The building a substantial and genteel residence, with all due requisites for domestic comfort and economy.

9th. The erection of an efficient threshing machine, and needful apparatus for shaking the straw, dressing the corn, cutting chaff, bruising oats, &c., so constructed as not to injure the straw; avoiding by its perfect action, that immense waste of grain visible in almost every truss of straw we examine.

10th. The avoidance of thatching and risk of weather, by ample barn room, with convenience for in-door horse labor at threshing, &c., when not employed without, so as to have no idle days for man or beast.

11th. The saving of every pound and pint of manure by a tank (90 feet long, 6 feet deep, 8 feet wide, with slated roof facing the north, and with well and pump,) into which is received the whole drainage from the farm-yard and stables.

12th. The conveyance by iron gutters and pipes of every drop of water from the roofs of each building, so as in no manner to dilute the manure in yards.