

# THE BRITISH AMERICAN



# CULTIVATOR.

"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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## THE CULTIVATOR.

"Agriculture is the great art which every government ought to protect, every proprietor of lands to practice and every inquirer into nature improve."—Dr. Johnson

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### NORMAL SCHOOLS.

A series of resolutions passed at a respectable meeting of the inhabitants of the village of Newmarket and neighbourhood will be seen on another page of this number, the avowed object of which are to establish a Manual Labour School, for the ostensible purpose of properly preparing that class of the young men of the country, who have a desire to take charge of the common schools under the New School Act.

It is a fact, too notorious to be called into question, that the persons who have the charge of four-fifths of the common schools of this country are remarkably illiterate, and in many cases are unqualified to communicate intelligently the elementary principles of the English language. That results detrimental to the rising generation and the prosperity of the country at large, should follow from the employment of such agents, who pretend to teach "the young ideas how to shoot," should not be a matter of astonishment.

The Canadian farmers complain loudly at the indifference manifested by their legislators towards their interests: we assure them that such will be the case, so long as they are represented in Parliament by men of the learned professions, who are not interested particularly in having the produce of the farm rating at prices which remunerate the producer. We know of no means

so cheap, practical, and well adapted to the circumstances of this infant colony, in removing the stumbling blocks which impede the pathway to useful and practical knowledge being imparted to the young men of this country, as that of an efficient *manufactory* for common school teachers. We conceive that Normal Schools, on the manual labour system might be introduced and established on a plan similar to that laid down in the resolutions referred to, at a very trifling expense to the country, which would ultimately remove the hindrance spoken of, and prepare the people of this Province for the full enjoyment of their free institutions.

The idea of Manual Labour Schools producing such a great amount of good, may be considered ridiculous in the extreme by men of narrow minds, or those who can only speak of colleges and universities as institutions suitable to prepare men for the higher walks of life; but to such we would say, that many of the brightest men of the present age are what are generally styled self-taught, and a number of the most eminent statesmen of this country were, only a few years since, figuring in the common circles of society.

Very frequently have we heard the young students of law in this city, express themselves in the highest terms, as it regards the respectability of their profession, the importance of keeping up corresponding appearances, and the manner in which they endanger their lives by incessant application to study. as it regards the latter, no difficulty need be apprehended by the students of a manual labour school, as that portion of their time which would be devoted to the several trades practiced at the institution, as well as the agricultural and horticultural departments, would admirably fit their body and mind for the clear and easy reception of the principles of the various arts and sciences which would be embraced in their studies.

Space forbids us for the present to enlarge on this very interesting subject, and in conclusion, would only state, that our Newmarket friends not only merits our sin-

cere thanks but the thanks of the whole community, for the able and spirited manner in which they have brought the subject before our readers. That portion of the Provincial journals who approve of the system, will do us a favour by giving insertion to the resolutions referred to.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE GORE DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of a very respectable sheet headed "Agricultural News," being the rules, regulations, proceedings, receipts, and expenditures of the above society during the past year.

While on a tour through the Gore District in the early part of last summer, we availed ourselves of the acquaintance of the leading agriculturists in the several townships of that District, and felt astonished at the laudable spirit of emulation which presented itself to our view. almost every department of agricultural improvement. The farmers appear ambitious and willing and anxious to be instructed in their business, as a proof of this, there are more agricultural papers taken in that District than in any other two districts, and the Agricultural Society numbers upwards of three hundred paying subscribers, an example, we believe, unequalled in any portion of the Province.

If space admitted, we would have copied largely from the "Agricultural News," but for the present we beg to give the following extract which will show the spirit manifested towards our feeble endeavours to elevate the character of Canadian agriculture, and we trust that every Agricultural Society in the Province will aid us in placing a copy of our journal in the hands of each member of such societies on the conditions therein spoken of. The very liberal terms upon which we afford our journal under the new arrangement, which may be seen on the last page, will make it an additional inducement for Societies or Clubs to take a number of copies, which will be forwarded to the address of each subscriber free of postage. [Continued on last page].