

involving such a diminution of the fruits of the earth, as to produce the most serious stagnation and losses among all classes of the community. The previously existing monetary affliction and reckless speculation rendered the transition more intense and ruinous in the result. If, however, the commercial panic, which was so general in its operation, had been succeeded by harvests of average productiveness, Canada would have gone through the ordeal, not without serious inconvenience, but certainly with much less disastrous consequences. And it is to be hoped that as prosperity is again dawning upon us, the painful experience of the past will prove an effectual warning for the future against being again involved in chimerical projects and rash speculations. This country, we believe, holds out sufficient inducements to honest industry and the judicious employment of capital. All healthy and during progress must be comparatively slow and progressive; and this is in general as true of an individual as it is unquestionably of a nation. Haste is but seldom real progress; and we have high authority for believing, confirmed by every-day experience, that those who hasten to be rich will almost surely fall into a snare. But there is another view of the subject. How clearly does the history of this Province for the past few years indicate that agriculture, the *artificial* produce of the soil, is the almost exclusive source of our wealth and prosperity. And this must continue to be the case in nearly the same degree, for an indefinite time to come. Arts and manufactures naturally fall into the transitional movement as they are required or can be made productive, but their development to be healthy must be natural, that is slow and progressive. All the great analogies of nature are in accordance with this law of progress. The monarchs of the forest outlive generations of mankind before reaching full maturity, and will take a similar course in their decline; whereas the gourd springs up and perishes in a night. Agriculture then, being the imperishable basis of our wealth and prosperity, it was meet and right for a christian people to return thanks in special and public manner to Him from whom temporal as well as spiritual blessings flow, for the bountiful harvest with which we, in common with a neighboring nation, have been blessed. There is perhaps no pursuit in life,

which so forcibly reminds a man of his dependence upon God to bring his labors to a successful issue, as that of the farmer. He is endowed with faculties of mind and body which enable him to prepare the soil, select and sow the seed and do all other things in accordance with the natural laws of Providence, as far as he understands them; and then leaves the result, in the spirit of faith and hope, to Him, who "giveth the increase." Of all men, the farmer must be held the least excusable if he neglects to cultivate a devout and thankful spirit, seeing that his pursuit brings him into daily contact with the wonderful operations of creative and sustaining Power, in the orderly course of the seasons. We are glad to find that the old venerated festivities of "Harvest Home," in our father-land, are beginning to be accompanied by solemn thanksgiving in the parish churches, and that the becoming festivities and recreations of such occasions are in some measure balanced by a trusting faith and an elevated piety. May we in Canada so use the blessings which a gracious Providence showers down upon us, that the mere accumulation of worldly wealth may not appear to be the exclusive or even the chief object of desire; but that we may employ them in ministering to the necessities of the poor; in diffusing as widely as possible, the advantages of sound, secular knowledge among the mass of the people, and in aiding the ministrations of christianity among those who are filling up the remote and spiritually destitute portions of our country.

History of Gypsum as a Manure.

The grand value of gypsum to the farmer, and even the chief interest of it to the merchant, are its uses as a manure. Virgil, in commending the use of ashes to the Roman farmers, speaks of the value of a very impure variety of gypsum; and the early inhabitants of Britain, and the farmers of Lombardy, made use of it in some such way as the Romans. But none of these parties were acquainted with its real nature; and even the chemists, till comparatively late period, were unable to distinguish it from limestone or other calcareous substances. About the middle of the 18th century, a substance which was long afterwards shown to be an impure gypsum, which had been used as a fertilizer in the neighbourhood of Hanover, drew the attention of Mayer, a talented Protestant pastor in the principality of Hohenlohe, and