

often observed already, we require that mills should be erected for the purpose of dressing and preparing the flax and hemp for exportation, or for home manufacture—and the flax and hemp should be purchased from the farmer in a green state, by the owners of these mills. If the farmer was sure to have a market for the crop in a green state, and a fair-price, we should soon have abundance of flax and hemp cultivated in the country, and it would be productive of vast benefit, giving us an article that might be advantageously exported, both seed and fibre. This matter is well deserving the attention of all who desire the prosperity of Canada, and it is astonishing it has been so long neglected. The following selection is from a late English newspaper, and will show what value is set upon the flax crop in England and Ireland. We would be very glad to see flax so extensively cultivated as to supersede some of the uses of cotton, for many purposes:—

VALUE OF THE FLAX CROP.—The following letter, showing the importance of the flax crop to the farmer, when proper attention is paid to its preparation and cultivation, appears in the Newry Telegraph:—Mr. W. Blakeley, a tenant of the Dean of Dromore, on the townland of Corcelauy, near Warrington, grew, last season, three statute acres of flax, which he managed strictly according to the directions of the society for the promotion and improvement of the growth of flax in Ireland. The produce of this field has been recently purchased for 15s per stone, by Messrs. M'Murray and Hening, of Warrington, the eminent cambric manufacturers, who say it is equal, if not superior, to any flax they ever saw before, and that they have given 36s per stone for foreign flax of an inferior quality. A large portion of this flax has been delivered to Messrs. M'Murray & Co., but some still remains to be dressed by the machinery of Mr. Henry, of Keady. Should this part be as productive as that already furnished, the entire produce of the three acres will be 120 stones, which, at 15s, will give to the farmer £90, but he has a certainty of 100 stones, which will realize £75. This flax is now in process of conversion into cambric pocket handkerchiefs, is capable of being spun to 30 hanks to the pound, and is to be spun by the hand. Mark, now, the employment this will give. It will give constant employment, for twelve months, to 132 women to spin it; 18 weavers will be occupied a like period in weaving, and it will employ 40 women a year to hem-stitch (or vein) the handkerchiefs—thus giving constant employment, for twelve months, to 190 persons. It is curious to trace the result of the process which this flax is now undergoing. It will produce 210 webs of cambric, each web containing five dozen handkerchiefs, each dozen will be worth 40s; and the entire, when finished, will be worth £2,100. The report of the Belfast market shows that £11,000 changed hands on the last market day of this article alone.

AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.—An agricultural school has been formed in the Township of Orrell, near Wigan, where, besides the usual rudiments of education, the pupils are taught the best method of cultivating land, and the science of agriculture generally. The farm on which they work is seven acres in extent.

The Royal English Agricultural Society have advertised a long list of premiums to be awarded at the next great annual meeting, to take place at Southampton, on the 25th July next. There are four for Essays on the state of Agriculture in Norfolk, Essex, Cheshire, and Wiltshire, and we copy one of them—that for Norfolk. These premiums will show that the object

of the Royal English Society is to obtain the best information on the present state of English Agriculture, and the means of improving it. We also copy some others, that they may suggest what would be expedient for us to adopt, to forward the improvement of Canadian Agriculture. We have a good example to follow.

2. INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE.

Twenty Sovereigns or a Piece of Plate of that value, will be given for the best Essay on the Influence of Climate upon Cultivation within the limits of Great Britain and Ireland.

There being good reason to suppose that the discordant practices of farming in different districts may be partly attributed to the influence of climate, competitors for this prize must endeavour to describe those practices, and to trace them to the variation of climate.

Under the term climate must be included the degree of cold or heat, moisture or drought, arising whether from latitude, elevation, neighbourhood to or distance from the sea, &c.

Variation in practice may be looked for in the management of artificial and natural grass, the growth of root-crops, the depth of ploughing, the time of sowing, the choice of white crops, &c.

3. INDICATIONS OF FERTILITY OR BARRENNESS.

Fifty Sovereigns, or a Piece of Plate of that value, will be given for the best Essay on the Indications which are practical guides in judging of the Fertility or Barrenness of the soil.

Many attempts having been made to explain the productiveness of the Soil by chemical or physical causes, without any decided result, it appears desirable to assist the researches of natural philosophers by making them acquainted with those obvious signs, whether of colour, consistence, or vegetation, by which surveyors and farmers are enabled to give at once a practical opinion upon the probable nature of land which they inspect.

4. AGRICULTURE OF NORFOLK.

Fifty Sovereigns, or a Piece of Plate of that value, will be given for the best Report on the present state of the Agriculture of the County of Norfolk;—stating the ordinary course of cropping adopted in the different soils of the county; the breeds of cattle, sheep, and pigs most generally bred or fed within it; the state of its drainage; the implements used; the number of horses or other cattle employed in the different operations of husbandry; the tenure on which the farms are generally held; the wages of labour; the average amount of the poor's rate; and whether any and what alterations and improvements have been made in the system of agriculture pursued within it since the Report made to the Board of Agriculture by Arthur Young, which was published in the year 1804, and by Nathaniel Kent, which was published in the year 1796.

9. KEEPING FARM-HORSES.

Twenty Sovereigns, or a Piece of Plate of that value, will be given for the best account of the way of keeping Farm-Horses in good Condition, both in Winter and Summer.

Competitors must state—

1. The quantity of food given, and the average cost of such food.
2. The work performed by the horses.
3. The length of time they have been kept on the food described.
4. Whether kept in yards, stables, or pastures.

10. ANY AGRICULTURAL SUBJECT.

Twenty Sovereigns, or a Piece of Plate of that value, will be given for the best Essay on any Agricultural Subject.

These Essays must be sent to the Secretary, at 12, Hanover Square, London, on or before March 1st, 1844.

RULES OF COMPETITION FOR PRIZE ESSAYS.

1. That all information contained in Prize Essays shall be founded on experience or observation, and not on simple reference to books, or other sources.