

### Necessity of a Steadfast Character.

The man who is perpetually hesitating which of two things he will do first, will do neither.—The man who resolves, but suffers his resolution to be changed by the first counter suggestion of a friend, who fluctuates from opinion to opinion, from plan to plan, and veers, like a weather-cock, to every point of the compass, with every breath of caprice that blows, can never accomplish any thing great or useful. Instead of being progressing in any thing, he will be at least stationary, and more probably retrograde in all. It is only the man who first consults wisely, that resolves firmly, and then executes his purpose with inflexible perseverance, undismayed by those petty difficulties which daunt a weaker spirit, that can advance to eminence in any line.



## The Cultivator.

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

Toronto, March, 1842.

In the future conduct of this Publication, we shall constantly make it our first and principal object, to promote, by our humble efforts, the improvement of Agriculture in British America, and advocate candidly and honestly, the interests of Agriculturists. To do this, however, many other subjects that will have a direct or indirect influence on those interests must necessarily be introduced and discussed. The columns, therefore, of the CULTIVATOR will not be strictly confined to Agricultural matters. All party politics shall be excluded.

There cannot be any doubt, that by promoting the improvement and prosperity of Agriculture, the general improvement of this country must be advanced. And as far as we are capable of judging, it is equally certain, that no other means are practicable by which the general improvement of this country can be accomplished so well as by an improved and prosperous Agriculture. This being our conviction, it remains for us to show upon what grounds we have arrived at this conclusion.

British America, or Provinces of the British Empire, that constantly require the produce of foreign agriculture to supply her population with a considerable portion of their food and other necessities, not produced in sufficient abundance at home. This Empire have a numerous surplus unemployed population, that are burdensome to them from the circumstance that they have to be supported from funds to which they are unable to contribute, consequently, this state of things must be most injuriously felt by the wealthy and industrious classes of the British isles, that have to support the unemployed poor who would be able to work. On the other hand, what is the present condition of the noble Provinces that constitute British America? We reply that they contain over two hundred million acres of land that is generally of most fertile quality, and capable of cultivation, and that they possess a climate as favourable for agriculture as that of the British isles, on an average of seasons—that of this vast territory, there is not over five million acres cultivated, and has not more than one million five hundred thousand of population. This fine country is intersected in every direction by noble rivers, and has vast inland seas. In Canada alone, these waters are capable of being rendered navigable for more than one thousand miles in a direct line, besides the many rivers that discharge from each side,

into this direct line of waters, that are also capable of being made navigable, and afford easy communication to every section of the country.

If this state of things do not point out the expediency of encouraging and promoting the improvement of agriculture in these Provinces, and securing the interests of agriculturists by every reasonable and necessary protection from foreign competition, we must acknowledge that we are ignorant of what may be expedient under such circumstances, and would be happy to be enlightened on the subject, to prevent us advocating measures and principles that may be erroneous or mischievous. However favourably disposed we may be to agriculture, from habit and other causes, if easier and more certain means can be devised, for improving the condition of the unemployed and burdensome poor of the British isles, and for bringing into productive cultivation, the fertile wilds of British America, than by encouraging and securing a prosperous agriculture in this country, we shall most cordially give our humble support in recommending that other means, whatever it may be. We only wish to see the general improvement and prosperity of British America, and shall not find fault with the means that may be best calculated to accomplish so desirable a good. But as we must leave it to others to suggest their plans of amelioration, we shall respectfully submit our own for consideration.

From our knowledge of British America, and a long practical experience with its soil and climate, we humbly conceive that a most prosperous agriculture may be established and secured in this country, by adopting such measures of encouragement and protection as would be expedient and reasonable—and we will add—just, towards all classes of this community. Of course, one of the most essential requisites for an improved and prosperous agriculture, is the investment and employment of capital in husbandry. Without a sufficient amount of this, it will be in vain to expect the improvement of our agriculture, or of British America. The next enquiry appears to be—what encouragement exists at present to invest capital in agriculture, and is there any certain prospect, that capital so employed, will be secure, and yield a reasonable profit? If this enquiry cannot be answered in the affirmative, capital will not be invested or risked in this business, and then all our endeavours to introduce improvement will be fruitless.

All loyal subjects of the British Empire, profess to desire that the British isles should be relieved from the burden of having to support an unemployed population of able-bodied men, and that this spare population should be transferred to British colonies, to be employed in cultivating their fertile waste land, and thus be enabled to support themselves, and raise a surplus produce that would be required in the British isles, and for which British manufactures might be taken in exchange by those persons, who were originally a burden to the mother country.

All this certainly appears very reasonable and plausible in theory, but is it practically possible under existing circumstances? Poor emigrants cannot cultivate our wastes without capital of their own to support them until they raise a crop. And if they have no money, are there capitalists here willing to invest money, and employ them in agriculture, until they can realize a capital of their own? Without hesitation we will answer, that the present prices of agricultural produce, in Canada particularly, does not offer sufficient encouragement to the investment of capital in agriculture, and consequently it is not probable that it will be so invested.

In a former number of THE CULTIVATOR, a statement of ours appeared, submitting the expense of raising and feeding neat cattle, sheep, and swine. If our estimates were correct, and we believe they were strictly so, we may very well conclude, that the present prices of beef, mutton, and pork, in Canadian markets, are far from remunerating the farmer—consequently capital cannot be safely invested in raising and fattening stock, and this is a most injurious drawback to our husbandry; as without cattle we cannot have corn, or pursue an improved system of farming. Whatever may be said of other pro-

duce, British America is well adapted to the raising and feeding of butchers' meat to any extent required, and also of yielding an abundant dairy produce. We can raise root crops, and the coarser grains, to feed cattle and swine to any extent, if we are only protected from foreign competition. It may appear reasonable that protection should be requisite for us, but from whatever cause it proceeds, we cannot compete successfully or profitably with the people of the United States in raising butchers' meat or dairy produce. We can confidently appeal to any person conversant with agricultural affairs in the British Provinces of North America, whether we are correct in this statement, and we shall be obliged to those who may differ in opinion with us, to prove to us wherein we are in error. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the United States, to understand perfectly how their system works, or whether or not, they can profitably undersell us in our own markets. They undersell us unquestionably, or rather sell at a price that would be ruinous to us, but whether they find this profitable or otherwise, is what we do not pretend to understand.

The farmers of the United States sell only a small proportion of their produce in the Canada markets, and they may be induced to do this from the necessity of realizing some specie, which cannot be so readily effected in their own country. The prices here are generally lower than in the principal markets of the United States, consequently there must be some cause with which we are unacquainted, that induces them to such a market in Canada, for any other produce, except wheat and flour. It is generally admitted that there are as good farmers and farming to be seen in British America as in the United States. If so, it cannot be from any deficiency in agricultural spirit or practice, that we cannot afford to sell our produce on as low terms as they do. This question is one of great interest to this community, and the columns of the CULTIVATOR shall be always open to its fair discussion. We shall most thankfully receive and endeavour to profit by good example, and instruction, from whatever quarter it may come to us; if it is offered in a reasonable and practicable shape.

That part of these Provinces which heretofore constituted Lower Canada, has suffered considerable damage in her agriculture for the last eight years, by the ravages of the wheat fly. The consequence was, that very little wheat has been grown there during that period, and the farmers were obliged to substitute other and less valuable grain, that can only be consumed in the Province and therefore, need not be raised to a greater extent than would be required to supply their home market. This has been a great drawback to farmers in that part of British America. It is true the cultivation of other plants might have been introduced, but no encouragement or instruction was held out to the farmers to make new experiments. Hemp and Flax might have been profitably introduced, and cultivated for exportation, both of seed and fibre, to the British isles.

There was not, however, sufficient public spirit to erect machinery for dressing hemp and flax, to prepare it for exportation, and farmers would not, or could not cultivate the plant without having some certain prospect to dispose of it when grown. For two hundred pounds or less, complete machinery might be erected for preparing hemp and flax for exportation, and half-a-dozen mills of suitable description placed in different sections of the Lower Province, would be sufficient to make a beginning, and induce farmers to make the experiment. The most certain means of encouragement, however, would be to find purchasers for the hemp and flax in a green state, when pulled and tied up on the fields, and that the purchasers should take upon themselves the steeping and subsequent management of it. If the farmers were assured of such a market, both these plants would soon be extensively cultivated.

Neither barley or oats can be profitably exported, unless, perhaps, some of the latter manufactured into oatmeal. These grains might be applied to feeding cattle and swine, provided the home markets of British America were secured to us from foreign competition, and our