

pure "thank-offering" to Him who bestows upon us all we possess in this world. Let us never fail to be grateful for such favours, always remembering that He who gives them, can also either withhold them, take them away, or turn them into a curse instead of a blessing, should we fail either to appreciate or make a legitimate use of them. Which of us can properly call anything we possess our own. What individual, or what number of individuals collectively, with all their skill, all their genius, all their mere human power, can in truth say that such and such a barn full or granary full of grain, or such a stock of fine cattle, are *their own*; that they are able of themselves, to protect them from destruction for a single moment against the power of Him who in His bountiful goodness permits them to enjoy them. The crop of wheat which you have just harvested with less hurry and fatigue, and with fewer hands than usual, is both abundant in quantity, and excellent in quality, and all that is required to crown your wishes in regard to this portion of your productions, is *good prices*; but I fear it is somewhat doubtful whether your wishes in this respect are destined to be realized. You may, I assure you, fully make up your minds that the days of protection in the British market for what has been hitherto our staple agricultural production; viz., *wheat*, have passed away, in all probability, never to return; consequently we cannot reasonably look for *much* higher prices for this article than we obtain at present, except from causes which would be by no means desirable, viz., either from *war*, or a *failure of crop*, in other parts of the globe, or some cause which would entail suffering or want upon a portion of our fellow creatures, *somewhere* and therefore always to be deplored and never to be desired. Such a state of things would be similar to one of us attempting to sit down to enjoy a sumptuous or dainty repast, while we knew that our next door neighbour was perishing of starvation; therefore when we learn as seems now to be generally understood, that the inhabitants of Europe and other parts of the world have been blessed as well as ourselves with a fair yield of breadstuffs, we ought to feel thankful on their account, as well as on our own. While on the subject of the *wheat* crop, our hitherto staple farm production in Canada, I feel it my duty to give you a word of advice, for it is now becoming a question among political economists whether we should much longer look upon wheat as our staple commodity for export. I firmly believe, gentlemen, that it is high time for every farmer to turn his attention more to other products than that of wheat; indeed I might enumerate a great number of farm productions, *any* of which would not only pay you better than wheat, but would be quite certain to remunerate you well for the labour required to produce them. I will first mention the article of *butter* which not only at present commands a high price, but is likely to do so for some time to come; therefore let me advise you to pay more attention to the *dairy*, both for *butter and cheese*, both of which are likely to command highly remunerating prices; and above all in this department let me entreat you not only to *endeavour*, for that word hardly conveys a strong enough

meaning for some of you, (not so strong as some butter I've tasted in my lifetime) but be *determined* to make a good and superior article, in order that the character of Canadian butter and cheese may be raised and established in foreign markets. Butter at present is selling readily at 8s. per pound, and I know many farmers who have for years past realized handsome sums from the sale of this article, even when it was but 6d. per pound; they considered then that it paid them as well or better than wheat, and why it was that more attention was not paid to its production by a great many other farmers, with equal facilities, seems somewhat strange. I would next mention the article of *pork*; this is likely to pay well for some time to come, decidedly better than wheat in my opinion, and I consider it a matter for regret, and one I think of great oversight on the part of many of our farmers, that they should have allowed, during the past summer the number of their hogs to be greatly reduced by selling them to American jobbers. Every intelligent farmer, by reading an agricultural journal, and looking into the state of their markets, &c., might have easily foreseen, from the brisk demand for pork since last winter, and the prospect of an increased demand for it for lumbering operations, that the article would continue to rule high for some time, and to command good remunerating prices. But what is the fact which we have reason to deplore? Why, that many, very many, more hogs than ought to have been spared, have been sold in their lean state, taken away from the Province while many of our own farmers have not so much as one to fatten! To be plain and candid I call this bad management, or rather no management at all. But my observations in reference to keeping or being without certain animals, lead me to make even a more severe remark than this; for I am convinced that the most casual observer cannot fail to be struck with the gross mismanagement on the part of some who call themselves *farmers*. You may possibly some of you take offence at my undertaking to administer such a rebuke on your proceedings; be this as it may, what I state, I do so under an honest conviction, and with the intention of doing you good, and promoting your temporal welfare; therefore take it as you will. For instance, how many occupants of farms have I seen within the last few years who would in one season have an overstock of horned cattle, and at a time, too, when such were of but trifling value, while the surface of pasturage, and quantity of winter fodder was altogether inadequate for their support; the consequence was, that a great many of them died from starvation, and for want of proper care and attention, so that from such losses, such *thinning* of the number, and the *thinness* of the carcasses of the few that survived, the conclusions that were generally come to by their owners, (although very erroneous conclusions) were, *that it was a bad business to aim at raising Stock*, and so the following season generally found our perplexed and discomfited neighbours with scarcely a hoof at all. And then the same with regard to *hogs*; one year one of these men's farms,—mind you I do not say a *farmer's* farm,—would be literally overrun with the great number he would keep of