

## CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

VOL. II.

MONTREAL, JUNE 2, 1845.

No. 6

Now that the new law with regard to Agricultural Societies is about to come into operation, we trust that every exertion will be made, that the public money granted to these Societies, shall be applied in such a way as will be likely to produce improvement where most required. The county of Montreal should set the example in this respect, being the most generally cultivated, and having an excellent soil.—When we acted as Secretary to the County Society, we proposed that a certain number of premiums should be offered in each parish in the County (of which there are nine), for well managed farms, suitable buildings, sowing grass-seed, summer fallowing, &c. &c. By this means the action of Agricultural Societies would be brought to the door of every farmer, who now does not, perhaps, know that such Societies are in existence. It would also have the effect of encouraging example farms in every parish, and amongst farmers where improvement is most required, which should be the chief aim of Agricultural Societies. To instruct the ignorant, and show them at their doors the results of improved systems of husbandry, is the true mode of ensuring the benefit that may be derived from the agricultural laws, to the country generally. The County of Montreal offers the most encouraging opportunity to put this plan in full operation. In all the parishes there is sufficient wealth and intelligence to commit the management of a due proportion of the funds granted to the Society, for distribution in the several parishes. Let the Society adopt what rules and regulations they may think fit for the distribution of the money in the parishes, but in justice to the parishes, let them have the funds that may reasonably belong to them in proportion to population. We would even suggest, that in case the parishes do not feel sufficiently interested in the matter to take an active part immediately, that the Society should depute some of their members to visit the parishes, and in con-

sert with the Roman Catholic and other Clergy, endeavour to explain the object in view and organize the people. It will be of no effect whatever to the general improvement of agriculture in Lower Canada, that Agricultural Societies should be organized, if their operation is confined to the immediate neighbourhood of our chief cities, and villages, and the premiums paid amongst old country farmers for superior animals, and to men who will tell you plainly they cannot receive any benefit from anything which can be published on agricultural improvement, knowing it so perfectly already.

These observations only refer to Eastern Canada, and that portion of it where the vast majority of the rural population are of French origin. If an improved system of agriculture is desirable to be encouraged amongst them, we take upon us to say, that if Agricultural Societies are to be the instruments in producing this general good, they will have to act very differently from what has been their mode of acting hitherto. If the public money is granted only for rewarding those who are already good farmers, and who are so because they have experience of its advantages, and not for the instruction, and encouragement of those who are ignorant of the art of agriculture, we have nothing further to offer, except to say that the law of the last session will be as unproductive of general improvement where most required, as all our former laws have proved to be. Let the acting Committees of the Societies forego all personal pecuniary advantages from it, and let them, as they have taken the duties upon them, sacrifice a part of their time, and give a part of their knowledge of agriculture, to instruct and encourage their brother farmers who have been less fortunate. They can, if so disposed, retire from the conduct of the Society at the period fixed by the law, and allow others to take the duties upon them in their turn. Thus many would have an opportunity of exercising their talents, and judg-