

THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.

The difficulty of sustaining a respectable publication, confined to the discussion of agricultural subjects, and to the diffusion of sound information and advice, suited to the wants of the rural classes, is sufficiently great in this new country, without the unsought and unmerited opposition of political journalists.

For myself, though jointly interested with Mr. Buckland in the "*Agriculturist*," I ask no immunity on the score of my political opinions. I deny that either the present paper or its predecessor, with which I was connected, has been made the vehicle for promulgating them. And I am yet to learn, that a man must cease to be either radical or tory, in order to be an agriculturist, or to conduct an agricultural journal. I pity the man, who, in a country like ours, has no political opinions, after he has had time to form them, and is called upon to act; and I despise him, who, having made up his mind, is deterred from acting through fear or subserviency, or who can change his politics as he would his coat, to suit the state of the atmosphere. Born in Canada, and holding such doctrine, you may be assured, sir, I have formed opinions upon the politics of my native country, and when called upon will never hesitate to avow them. And I admit for the information of all who desire it, that you would be perfectly right in setting down my opinions in your present vocabulary as "Radical;" but at the same time I contend, supported I am sure by the candid of all parties, that in speaking of the *Agriculturist*, you have no right to drag in the private opinions, political or religious, of either of its proprietors, unless you point them out in the work itself. It would be just as fair in us to tell our twenty or thirty thousand readers, that the very useful Almanac you lately issued, is "a publication" of the most changeful and deceptive "complexion," and thus to excite public distrust in the integrity of its statistics, because your politics, sir, are said not to be of the most certain, or reliable character.

I ask you, sir, as an act of editorial courtesy, as an act of justice to Mr. Buckland, as an act of justice to the agricultural interests of the country, which must suffer from any cause that would lessen the circulation or destroy the efficiency of the agricultural press, to insert these remarks in your next number, and either to substantiate or retract the charges you have made against the *Agriculturist*.

I herewith send you a copy of that paper containing the article which the *Patriot* "embraced and incorporated," and would feel obliged by your pointing out the "sentiments" to which you object.

I am, Sir, your very humble servant,
Jan. 20th, 1849. WM. McDOUGALL.

We think it also desirable to place before our readers the following letter of Mr. Buckland, as published in the *Toronto Patriot* of Jan. 22, that they may see and judge for themselves, respecting the principles of the conductors of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

To the Editor of the *Patriot* :

Sir—Little did I imagine, that within the short space of a fortnight after commencing my duties as the principal editor of "*The Canadian Agriculturist*," I should find myself somewhat unpleasantly involved in party politics. The *British Colonist* has most unwarrantably designated the periodical with which I am connected, as a violent radical print, and accuses you of gross inconsistency for inserting, in your favourable notice of the publication, its introductory article, which was written by myself. As my partner has written to the *Colonist*, to correct his misstatement, and you, in your yesterday's publication, have said, perhaps, all that is really necessary, in reply to so unprovoked an attack, I had resolved on remaining wholly silent; but, upon second thoughts, it occurred to me, that, as you have expressed an opinion that I am conservative in my sentiments, therefore not, as the *Colonist* would insinuate, a radical,

a few words on my part may not appear uncalled for. I must protest, however, against the way in which I have been thus publicly associated, both without my knowledge, and certainly against my inclination, with party politics. Nothing I have said or written, either since or prior to my arrival in this country, would justify such a proceeding. I never have been mixed up with political parties and squabbles, and, from the little I have learned of the state of such matters here, I sincerely trust I never may. I came out to Canada for a very different object; and, if the Agricultural paper with which I have connected myself cannot be sustained on strictly neutral grounds, so far as I am concerned, it shall fall.

I hope, Mr. Editor, if I continue in this country, to employ my humble talents in promoting peace and good will, in the diffusion of useful knowledge, the improvement of agriculture, the advancement of the social and moral condition of the people, and of those great principles of our common Christianity, which all good men both believe and practise. All prejudices of race, party and creed, should, as far as possible, be merged into the generous love of our adopted country. If our politics were thoroughly imbued with this spirit, how many causes of social bitterness and individual heart-burning would be removed!

If I am not trespassing too much upon your space, will you make room for the following extract from the conclusion of a speech, which I delivered at a large agricultural dinner in my own neighbourhood, only a few days before I left England, in the spring of 1847; my highly esteemed friend, Mr. Law Hodges, M.P. for the county of Kent, was in the chair. The report is from the *Maidstone Journal*.

"In leaving my native country, I rejoice to know, that I shall not resign either the rights or duties of a citizen, by ceasing to become a British subject. For, after all, what are our colonies; what, for instance, is Canada, but a great outlying county of Old England, an integral portion of our great and glorious Empire. I shall endeavour to realize and cherish the patriotic sentiment of the poet:

"Far as the breeze can bear the billow's foam,
Survey our Empire, and behold our Home."

"And now my friends, in saying to you farewell, pardon me if I manifest a more serious tone than is usual on these convivial occasions. In a few days I and mine will be on our way upon the great deep, in the bark that is to carry us to our distant home; I again assure you, that I have resolved on this important step, not because I am dissatisfied with my country, or have failed to receive the sympathy and encouragement which I think I may have deserved. I shall always look back with pleasure on past scenes and connexions, and the little I have been enabled to do for the improvement of our common pursuits. I feel an undiminished attachment to my native land; I love her institutions, her religion, and her laws; and hope wherever my lot may be cast, that I shall never forfeit the good wishes and opinions you have so kindly expressed. In commending you, and mine, and all our interests, to the care and keeping of a gracious Providence, I now bid you farewell."

These were the sentiments with which I left my native country, and I am not ashamed to say that they are my sentiments still. Whatever may be the political complexion they may be supposed to assume here, I care but little, only I must protest in my present blissful state of ignorance of the many ins and outs of colonial politics, against the supposition of wearing the livery of any party.

It is thus, I assure you, very pleasant to my feelings to be not compelled to say so much about myself; circumstances not of my choosing must plead my excuse.

I am, sir, yours, most respectfully,
Toronto, Jan. 19, 1849. GEO. BUCKLAND.