

Agricultural.

THE EDUCATION OF FARMERS.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 56.

"But while he may make important advances in the art of agriculture; without comparing notes with his neighbours, and without reading, it is not to be doubted that most men could derive much benefit from learning what the experience of others has taught. Who knows so much that there is none wise enough to teach him anything? Who understands farming better than all the men combined who ever wrote upon the subject? If there be any such man, he may be excused from reading or inquiring. But such an one nowhere exists, and all who till the earth may gain information from many a written page.

"We most exceedingly regret, that there should exist this antipathy among some farmers to all instruction that is conveyed to them through the pages of a book, or the columns of a paper. They are among the most ready and powerful means for the improvement of agriculture; containing the practical results of the study and experience of some of the most distinguished and learned of the present and by-gone times. The principles they inculcate, and the discoveries they reveal, are based upon the incontrovertible laws of science, and require but careful attention, united with enterprise and skill, to be rendered available. And when these aids to the improvement of the soil and mind are urged upon the farmer, we are met with the reply of book farming, theory, speculation, &c. He sees the mechanic, the manufacturer, the professional man, deriving their most substantial assistance from books and papers relating to their pursuits, and yet those relating to his own are surrounded with phantoms of expensive experiments and futile theories. There is neither reason nor wisdom in such a course. He is not required to try every new animal, vegetable, or implement, or to enter haphazard into any or every system of culture that shall be brought forward, but to adopt only such as are warranted by well-tried experiment, and are adapted to his means and situation. He is to distinguish between experimental and scientific farming; the former of which comes within the province of the fickle-minded and curious, and serves to gratify a love of novelty, or a desire to obtain solid good from repeated trials; while the latter is the culture of the soil on those principles of natural science which are in daily operation about us, and the skillful application of which makes the successful farmer.

"It is a knowledge of these principles that we would direct the attention of our farmers. This constitutes an extensive branch of the education we would urge upon them, and we honestly believe they never will be pre-eminently successful until they have acquired it. They are called upon by every motive of public and private interest, and, if such an argument will be entitled to any weight among them, by a due regard to the dignity and character of their profession, to throw off the absurd prejudice they entertain against the suggestions of scientific and observing men against changing their systems of culture. In order that there may be a general and thorough-going improvement in our husbandry, our husbandmen of the present day must patronize education having reference to their pursuits. It must be a matter of self-education with some, but they cannot turn in any direction without finding ample assistance. They have it brought home to their very doors in the shape of agricultural books and periodicals, besides the assistance of societies and schools. They have only to unite with these their well-known intelligence and a proper degree of spirit to make themselves—What many of them are not now—scientific farmers.

"We feel it an imperative duty, before we close our remarks, to call the attention of parents who intend to bring up their sons to agricultural pursuits, to the necessity of soundly educating them in the principles of agricultural chemistry, as the only efficient means of enabling them to treat their land to advantage; so that they may produce the largest crops of grain, at the smallest expense, with the least impoverishment of the ground, and thus become the regenerators of the soil, and promoters of the real interests and prosperity of the country."

THE GARDEN.

No associations are stronger than those connected with a garden. It is the just pride of an emigrant, that settled on some distant shore, to have a little garden as like as he can make it, to the one he left at home. A pot of violets, or mignonette, is one of the highest luxuries to an Anglo-Indian. In the bold and picturesque scenery of Batavia, the Dutch can, from feeling, no more dispense with their little mounts round their houses, than they could, from necessity, in the flat swamps of their native land. Sir John Hobhouse discovered an Englishman's residence on the shore of the Hellespont, by the character of his shrubs and flowers. Louis XVIII, on his restoration to France, made in the Park of Versailles the facsimile of the garden at Hartwell; and there was no more amiable trait in the life of that accomplished prince. Napoleon used to say that he should know his father's garden in Corsica, blindfold, by the

smell of the earth, and the hanging gardens of Babylon are said to have been raised by the Median queen of Nebuchadnezzar, on the flat and naked plains of her adopted country, to remind her of the hills and woods of her childhood.—Quarterly Review.

THE SMALL POX.—With reference to the protective influence of vaccination, extensive statistical facts have proved, that of every hundred persons who contract small pox, after vaccination, seven only die; while of those who are unprotected, forty-five per cent fall victims to the disease.

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GEORGE BUCKLAND, Secretary Agricultural Association, Principal Editor, assisted by WILLIAM McDUGALL, Proprietor.

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E. B. LINDSAY. C. T. H. Q.

Trinity House, Quebec, } 7th February, 1850. } 8—6v.

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