

share of really patriotic feeling direct their course, this department will live and flourish.— It will be indeed a dark day for Canada, that should witness its decline.

GOLD OF PLEASURE.—*Camelina Sativa*.

We proceed, according to promise, to give some account of the cultivation and economical uses of the *Camelina Sativa*, called by Linnæus *Myagrum Sativum*, and commonly known by the attractive name of *Gold of Pleasure*.

This plant can scarcely be said to be a native of the British Islands, although it has now become indigenous there, especially in fields that have been cropped with flax and hemp, it having been introduced with the seed of these plants from the continent of Europe, in some of the more southerly countries of which, its growth is so rapid that it will produce two crops a year. The stem usually grows from one to two feet high; its leaves are of a bright green, smooth and narrow; the flowers small and yellow; its pods are pear-shaped, divided by two large and two smaller ribs. Each cell contains several small and oblong yellowish seeds. The pods being peculiarly liable to open when fully ripe, much of the seed will be lost, without proper care, and the plant often becomes troublesome from this cause, among succeeding crops. In some places, it is said to have established itself as a common weed. In gathering, therefore, it should be handled carefully. Early in the morning, when the dew is on, is the best time.

A few years since, a popular feeling was attempted to be got up in some parts of England in favor of the introduction of the Gold of Pleasure as a field crop; and several sanguine persons warmly espoused its great value in a regular and improved rotation. We have only seen it cultivated in small patches; and not having heard much about it for the last half dozen years, it is natural to conclude that the sanguine anticipations once indulged in respecting it have not been realised. The plant is certainly hardy, and is but little liable to the attacks of aphides, which often produce much havoc among the Brassica crops. It grows rapidly, and will flourish on thin sandy soils. Its chief value consists in the oil yielded by the seed. This oil is exceedingly pure and sweet, burns brilliantly, with comparatively little smoke, and scarcely any smell. For feeding purposes the seed is decidedly inferior to flax. The stem yields a coarse fibre, which can

readily be manufactured into cloth for sacks, sails, &c., and also, it is said, for coarse packing paper. The stems are sometimes used on the continent for thatching cottages and outbuildings, making a light and tolerably enduring roof; and they are often made into buoms.

It is stated in some of the English journals, that a superior variety has recently been introduced, and considerably cultivated in the northern portion of France, under the name of *Le Cameline majeure*, which is of stronger growth, its seeds yielding a larger amount of very superior oil to the common varieties. Several species of the Cameline have been introduced into Britain, and tried by the curious, but, it would appear, without any results of much importance. From all we can learn of the culture of this plant in Europe we come to the conclusion, that on poor, inferior soils, where the ordinary cruciferous plants cannot be grown with success, the Gold of Pleasure may be profitably cultivated for its seed alone. Like all plants raised for seed, the *Sativum*, however, must be a great exhaustor of the soil, and we very much doubt whether the inferior sandy soils, which are said to be suitable to this crop, will yield a profitable return either, without manure, or at very long intervals.

The time of sowing is in the spring; the month of May we should think quite soon enough for Canada. Our climate we take to be peculiarly favorable to the production of this, and the oleaginous plants generally. We yet hope to be able to give this plant a trial on the experimental farm during the present season. From 5 to 6 or 7 lbs. of seed per acre are sufficient, sown in drills or broadcast, on a well prepared surface. In England, the crop may be said to vary from 18 to 25 bushels per acre; but under the warmer and less cloudy skies of central and southern Europe, the yield is considerably larger. The seed is worth from 5s. to 6s. sterling per bushel.

John Johnston, an extensive farmer near Geneva, has now on his farm 25 miles of drains. His son-in-law, Mr. Snow, on an adjoining farm, has laid 88,000 tiles and drained 200 acres of his land. Mr. Johnston says, "the whole country ought to be drained;" a remark which comes nearer the truth than most *figurative* ones do.

IMPORTANCE OF STRAW.—Twenty tons of straw will, by littering and foldering well-fed cattle, make at least 100 tons of dung. Good crops of wheat, barley, and oats respectively may yield 20, 18, and 25 cwt. of straw per acre. But of course the produce is exceedingly variable on the same soils in different seasons, and on different soils in the same season.