

approved methods of culture, the capacious and the incredulous cannot look on without instruction, and so great is the superiority of truth, that it will eventually gain either a willing or reluctant obedience.

These were the views which prevailed on the Directors last summer to admit two new Societies to a participation of the funds.—One of them had sprung up the year before, in Dalhousie Settlement, but had then received no encouragement from the Board.—It made a second application, and the sum of £10 was granted for its local prizes. The second started up at Port Hood in Cape Breton, and as the number of members, who associated themselves together at the first, was considerable, and as its situation was in a remote part of the Island, the Directors acknowledged its existence and assigned it another £10. A third Society gave notice of its formation at Judique, which is but a little distance from Port Hood, and claimed the protection of the Board; but it was thought prudent to discourage this last attempt, and a request was issued that a junction should be effected with that of Port Hood.

2d. Our independence may be much accelerated by a general erection of oat mills.

Wheat, I believe, in every country under Heaven which lies within the northern temperate zone, either in the old or in the new world, and where this grain has always constituted the staple article of bread, finds the readiest sale of all other agricultural produce. It is the prince of the *cereal granina*, and forms, when ground, a loaf that is eminently nutritious, very invigorating, and palatable to all tastes. The cultivators of the soil in the different European Kingdoms, as in France, Germany, Prussia, Poland, as well as Great Britain, lay their account with the disposing of this grain, either to pay rent or to purchase necessary supplies for their families. It is considered as the ready money of the farmer, and with it he goes to market.—It is obvious that before he can avail himself of this universal demand for wheat, he must provide some other substitutes for his own domestic consumption. These vary in different countries, and are regulated by

the capabilities of the climate. The Swede mixes a particular kind of ground bark with his coarse meal—the Frenchman lives on soups formed, partly of bread, but with a liberal allowance of vegetables—the Italian subsists on fruits and millet, joined to his macaroni—the German eats a large proportion of rye bread—the Irish farmer deals much in milk and potatoes—the English has recourse, as helps, to barley and oatmeal—the Scotch uses pease, barley and oats—and the American throws his chief consumption on Indian corn. The Agricultural classes in all these places satisfy the common demands of nature with something else than wheat, and save this latter for the home or foreign market. Such examples are not unworthy of our imitation. It would be among the last thoughts of my heart, and among the last words I would utter, either to desire or say that every farmer in Nova Scotia should not have a wheaten loaf for his use whenever inclination prompted; but I do not hesitate to render a more general substitution of coarser food. Barley, pease and oats are found to be both excellent and wholesome; and when the taste is once formed on them, our pleasantries, by adopting these, would be equally happy, equally vigorous, and unquestionably as highly relished; but it soon becomes agreeable and is acknowledged to be favourable to muscular strength, health and longevity. It has been falsely supposed to be the exclusive and national food of Scotland, but so far is this from being true, that it is extensively used through many counties of Ireland, and through all the north of England.—It is common in France, not only on the coast opposite to Britain, but it was met with between Toulouse and the Pyrenees by Arthur Young,* who was so much struck with the universality of this food, that he quotes on the occasion a passage of Sir James Stuart's to the following effect:—"Oatmeal, says he, is found in Catalonia, Auvergne, and Swabia, as well as in Lochaber." The strange prejudices, therefore, which appeared on its first introduction here about four years ago, were without any just foundation; and it is not surprising that they should have so quickly vanished in all those parts, which have since had the advan-

* Vide Arthur Young's travels in France, vol. 1st, p. 22.