

We cheerfully embrace this opportunity to thank those of our friends who have favoured us with original communications during the current year, and to express a hope that they will continue the same with such an increase of their number as will render this Journal what we are most anxious to make it,—a complete and healthful exponent of the state and capabilities of the agriculture of Upper Canada. If but one in a hundred of the energetic and intelligent farmers of this country would furnish us once a year with a short article on some subject coming within the range of his observation or experience, our Journal would contain more diversified and more interesting original matter, and would become more generally useful.

In returning our grateful acknowledgements to our subscribers, we are anxious not only to retain their present support, but request also their active exertion to extend our subscription list, which at the reduced rates to Clubs and Societies, is barely sufficient to defray actual expenses, leaving nothing for editorial supervision. Indeed, without the aid rendered by the Board of Agriculture during the current year, the *Agriculturist* could not have been sustained at its present size, for half a dollar. An addition of two thousand names to our subscription list, (and it is fair to assume that the whole of Upper Canada could easily supply that number), would place us in a position to do justice to the publication, by introducing a larger number of illustrations, and by devoting more time and labour in its preparation and management. As a cheap Monthly paper, like the *Agriculturist*, will not bear the heavy expenses involved in the employment of Travelling Agents, *we must look to the individual exertions of the friends of Agricultural Improvement, in their several localities, for any material increase of our subscribers.* FARMERS OF CANADA, WILL YOU NOT READ, WRITE FOR, AND EXTEND THE CIRCULATION OF YOUR OWN ORGAN?

Although our entire arrangements for 1853 have not yet been definitely determined, it is our intention to continue the *Agriculturist* as heretofore, both as respects size and price; and we hope to receive such encouragement as will enable us to carry out improvements in our next volume, that cannot fail to make the work more useful and interesting to a wider circle of readers; to all, in short, who live in the country, and can appreciate the pleasures and advantages of rural life.

A new era in the agricultural history of this country may now be said to have commenced, in the elevating of the farmers' art and interest to an honourable position in the Councils of the State; in the establishment of an Agricultural Professorship in our Provincial

University, with an Experimental Farm to be attached thereto; in the creation of a Board of Agriculture now getting into efficient working order, and in bringing under a uniform system of management the Provincial, County, and Township Agricultural Societies, by means of the new and much improved statute,—to such aids and appliances as these, eliciting and systematising throughout the length and breadth of the land, the most valuable and trustworthy information, we look with cheering hope and confidence as journalists, for ample material to enrich our pages for an indefinite time to come.

The Postmaster General, in consideration of the great public utility of such a publication as this, and having extended the same privilege to a similar journal in Lower Canada, has promised to allow the *Agriculturist* to go to subscribers *free of postage.* This we trust will be an additional inducement to Societies, Clubs and individuals to aid us in obtaining a wider circulation.

#### TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON FARMERS' CLUB.

THE Township of Hamilton Farmers' Club met at the North American Hotel, Cobourg, on September 30th, 1852.

John Wade, Esq., President, in the chair.

Present—Messrs. Richardson, Black, Alcorn, Eagleson, Masson, Sutherland, A. J. Burnham, Stewart, Wright, Owston, Campbell, &c. The meeting was also favoured with the company of Col. Cameron, Kingston, Sutherland, and other gentlemen from a distance.

The subject for discussion, viz., the advantages and importance of fairs was introduced by Mr. James Sutherland in the following essay:—

In reviewing the history of the various nations who have figured prominently in the world, we must at once come to the conclusion that their prosperity or downfall depends less upon a fertile soil and a salubrious climate than upon the energy, intelligence, and enterprise of their inhabitants. Many of those nations which once stood prominent for arts, science, commercial and agricultural enterprise, are now from force of circumstances dwindled down to a state of semi-barbarism, increasing in crime and indigence and ruled with despotic power. One of the leading causes of such results is a blind neglect evinced by the inhabitants to matters of the most paramount interest to their prosperity.

We would be far from supposing or predicting such a climax to the at present flourishing prospects of Canada, yet there are some of the most essential elements of her prosperity that have never been brought into active existence, although in many instances all that is wanted is a cordial co-operation of the parties concerned. Among things most essential to the interest of the farmer would be a permanent establishment of periodical fairs or markets for the sale of live stock, grain, &c.