

AGRICULTURAL.

AGRICULTURAL PAPERS.

When contemplating the immense and incalculable benefits which must necessarily result not only to the farmer and planter, but to the public in general, and to every class of the community in whatever occupation engaged, from the general improvement of agriculture and the powerful tendency of agricultural papers to produce such improvement, the man of reflection, who loves his country, and who feels any regard for the happiness of his fellow men, cannot but be struck with astonishment, not only at beholding so many of those who are devoted to the profession of agriculture, and who are entirely dependent on it for the supply of all their wants, voluntarily debarring themselves from the easiest, the most agreeable, the cheapest, and the most effectual mode of acquiring knowledge in their profession—but at the short sighted views of those who are obviously not less deeply interested than the farmer himself, in producing that state of improvement, on the production of which the prosperity of all is alike dependent. Let every man but ask himself, what would be the effect on the public prosperity, and on that of every individual of which society is composed, whatever may be his occupation, were the fertility of the land and the quantity of his annual production to be doubled, tripled, or quadrupled—all must see at a glance, that the national wealth and resources would be in the same degree enhanced. The government would be enabled, with far less inconvenience to the people, to raise double, treble, or quadruple the revenue which can now be collected, either for defending the country against foreign enemies, improving it by roads, canals, &c., or, for what is of still greater importance than either, the establishing and sustaining a system of Universal Education, by which, and by which alone, liberty can be perpetuated, the people elevated to that dignity and worth of which they are capable, and which it should be considered the first duty of every government to confer. The farmer and planter would be benefitted by receiving a double, a treble, or quadruple reward for his labor, to be expended in supplying his wants, increasing his wealth, and promoting his comfort. The merchant, the lawyer, and the mechanic, will be benefitted by a double, treble, and quadruple ability in their customers to purchase their goods, or to reward them for their services; and above all, the laborer of every description, would be benefitted by constant employment, and good wages paid in ready money. In a word, universal prosperity would overflow the land, and universal intelligence and increase of virtue, would enable and dispose the people so to use it, as to banish from the country by far the larger portion of that misery and distress under which mankind, in all ages and countries, have heretofore groaned, and which must continue to be their lamentable lot, until by an elevation of the intellectual and moral character of the mass of the people, they shall be qualified so to improve the resources which a benignant Providence has placed at their command, as to enable every one, by moderate labor, to acquire the necessaries and comforts of life. That such would be the ultimate effects of doubling, trebling, quadrupling the products of the earth by the industrious exertions of the agricultural community, if guided and directed by intelligence, is too plain to require proof. Would the general circulation of agricultural papers, by diffusing agricultural knowledge, and by continually presenting to the mind of the agriculturalist, clear, unequivocal, and demonstrative proof, that great and ample rewards are the sure and certain consequence of such exertions, have a tendency

to stimulate the community to active and intelligent exertions? He who doubts this, must believe the gross and palpable absurdity, that the greater the knowledge the man possesses of the business in which he is engaged, the more will he be disqualified to pursue it with advantage, and that the more clearly and distinctly the prospect of reward for his labor is held out to the farmer, the greater will be his indolence. With those who can believe these propositions, if any such there be, it would be vain and idle to reason—they can believe any thing which they wish—their error proceeds not from the head, but from the heart—what they want is not the capacity, but the inclination to discover truth.

To all others, of whatever character or occupation, we would say, if you believe that agricultural improvement would be thus beneficial to your country, conducive to the best interests of yourselves and of your fellow citizens, of every class and description, and that the wide and general circulation of agricultural papers would have a tendency to produce that improvement, do not patriotism, philanthropy, and an enlightened regard to your own interest, all conspire to demand, that you should exert yourselves by every means in your power, by your example, by your exhortations—by your instructions and by your influence, to extend as widely as possible the circulation of papers entirely devoted to the diffusion of agricultural knowledge and the production of agricultural improvement—papers whose influence, while it may be productive of such incalculable good can by no possibility be injurious to any human being? We ask you, calmly, soberly, and deliberately, to consider the subject, and then to act in such a manner as reason, conscience, patriotism, and an enlightened regard to your own interest shall dictate. For ourselves, we entertain not a particle of doubt, that were some well conducted agricultural paper generally circulated and read in every neighbourhood, its salutary influence would, in a few years, be clearly exhibited in the intellectual and moral improvement of the people, in the increase of the national wealth and resources, and in the increased prosperity and happiness of all classes of the community. To the production of such results we are not only willing, but desirous of contributing our utmost exertions, and it is therefore, that we solicit all those who have it in their power, by the communication of agricultural knowledge, and by their exertions in promoting its diffusion to the widest practical extent, to afford us their aid and co-operation—on that aid and co-operation, we are fully sensible, must the success of ours, and of similar efforts, in a great measure depend—*American paper.*

[FOR THE BEE.]

MR. EDITOR,

Sir,—When the rage for scribbling has prevailed to an extent so enormous, that the press daily teems with the jargon of would-be authors; when the *carothes scribendi* has forced upon the literary stage opponents to the Temperance Society, and when the vituperative genius of half the wisacres in the Province has been levelled at the devoted head of an individual who dared to write as he thought on a popular subject; when not even the *fishy* characters of the day, can visit Cariboo on a sporting expedition, without foisting upon the public a notice some two or three columns in length; when these and other things of a like nature, exhaust the patience of the community, it is not a very suitable time to hazard a communication which has no particular merit to recommend it to the public attention. However saturated newspaper posers may be with invective and scurrility heaped upon the shoul-

ders of an inoffensive man, in order to demonstrate the duty of drinking cold water to the exclusion of every other liquid; still, I flatter myself, they will not altogether disrelish a few friendly hints possessing something akin to common sense, and being intended at least, to promote general utility. The exposure of malpractices, and reformation of abuses, may be classed among those useful species of action for which a very small portion of gratitude is returned. Though the motives by which a man is actuated be pure, and his conduct strictly conformed to the rules of virtue and morality, if he attempt to expose any thing in the shape of vice, sanctioned by custom, he will find himself in a predicament similar to that of a person who inadvertently stirs up a nest of hornets. Poney therefore would suggest silence, but at such a crisis, to be silent is to be criminal: hence the propriety of following the path of duty, may be inferred, and the truth of the maxim, "Honesty is the best policy." It is a blessed privilege of our country that the press is free. Injuries may be redressed through this medium when all else fails, and a proper bias given to public feeling when no other agent would prove effectual. Has the liberty of the press then flourished in the vicinity of Pictou, is an inquiry which deserves to be considered. But a review of this nature might tend to probe grievances partially healed, and arouse harsh feelings, and therefore it shall be omitted. It will not perhaps be imprudent to state, that however badly periodicals in this district may have been conducted, the community in general cannot be totally exculpated; for if they had granted that support which it was perfectly practicable to give, those organs of public sentiment, would still have been in operation, or others upon a better footing, would have been established. But as I do not intend to write a funeral dirge for the Pictou newspapers, it will be necessary to reject the recollection of past events, and direct our attention to the present posture of affairs. We have a periodical of the merit of which, every man has the liberty to judge. I am not disposed just now to approve or disapprove of it. The former would be insulting you with a species of bare-faced flattery: the latter it is unnecessary to say, would be improper. We have then I say a periodical, whether good or otherwise every one can determine for himself. But is the press free? If it is, let us keep it so by supplying an adequate fund. To our infamy be it recorded, if we suffer the freedom of the press to languish or die, for want of pecuniary aid. Again, does our 'gatherer of sweets' deserve encouragement? If so, why is the subscription list not more extensively increased? or rather why do some of those who have already subscribed, fail in remitting payment? And why are the columns of the Bee comparatively devoid of advertisements? I have no direct information that payments are not regularly made, but judging from analogy, the presumption that this is the case, is very strong. Should the fact be otherwise, a great change certainly must have lately taken place, and one which would argue a happy reformation. With some degree of surprise, I have remarked the small number of advertisements which appear in your paper, and it is not easy to account for the phenomena. Walk the streets of Pictou, and you will find every hole and corner stuffed with groceries, almost every window covered with toys and frippery of various description. Is it not strange then, that those who take so much pains to embellish their shop-rooms, erect platforms, display signs and fashionable trinkets, would not like to have their publicity a little more extended? One would suppose that the pride of seeing their names in capitals, would be a sufficient inducement to patronize