

THE

CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

VOL. I.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 1, 1844.

No. 2.

OUR JOURNAL.

Though we are as anxious to obtain Subscribers to this Periodical as any proprietor of a public Journal can be, aware that such support is necessary, as well to its usefulness, as for its very existence, yet we do not intend to occupy our columns in setting forth our claims to public patronage, but rather endeavour to fill our columns with such matter as will entitle us to expect to be supported by subscribers. If we are not able to make this Periodical useful or interesting we would have no just claim to support, and should discontinue it. We believe there are many friends who would subscribe to it, though they might not, perhaps, read a page of it, and to these friends we shall ever be grateful. With the generality of subscribers, however we would only expect, they would pay us an annual subscription of one dollar, if they found that our Journal would furnish them with useful, and interesting matter, which they consider worth that amount. It would be only a useless expenditure of time and money, to publish this Journal, if it was not read, or considered worth subscribing for. We should be sorry to tax our friends or the public with the support of this Periodical, if it was not likely to forward the object for which it is published—namely—to promote agricultural improvement—to benefit those engaged in husbandry—and to advance the general interest of this country. This is our object now, as it ever has been hitherto, and all we have published. We think it best candidly to state our pretensions to favour. We shall do all in our power to forward the objects which, we declare we have in view in publishing this Journal, but if it should prove to disappoint our friends, and not give satisfaction to our subscribers, we shall give up all pretensions to favour or support, from any quarter. Publishing a Journal should, be like any other plain matter of business. It must cost the proprietor something to produce it, and it should sell for what it would be worth, and be paid for as any other article that is purchased for its actual usefulness, or for any other value that the purchaser attaches to it. These are the grounds upon which we wish to stand, with our friends, and subscribers. We promise them that we shall do all in our power to give value for what we receive. We shall be most anxious that each number of our Journal shall be more valuable and interesting than the one that preceded it. It will be our pride to do this, and upon the fulfilment of our promise, we respectfully found our claim to public support. There are only two Agricultural Journals published in United Canada, and each will have abundant opportunity of usefulness, without interfering with each other. There is much more useful in-

formation in circulation regarding agriculture, than both Journals can publish, though each one should never publish any matter which would appear in the other.

The necessity of Agricultural improvement to Canadian prosperity, must be so manifest to any one acquainted with the country, and its resources, that we have often flattered ourselves, that we would have the support and countenance of the educated classes, and all those who wished the country well, in our humble endeavours to forward this improvement, but we regret to have to say, that, with a few exceptions, whom we honour, we have been generally disappointed. Our exertions may have been looked upon as undeserving of attention or encouragement, or perhaps they would have obtained an ample share of both. Many bad servants, however, have been well paid. But if our endeavours were useless, and of no value, we can truly say we derived no profit from them, but on the contrary considerable loss, in time, and money. We do not make this a matter of complaint, because we have acted voluntarily throughout—but we state it as a fact to prove how much the improvement and prosperity of agriculture have been disregarded in Canada, up to a very late period. Our exertions would have been much more successful, we believe, could we have had the confidence, which the support, and countenance of the higher classes would have given us. But conscious of the want of this, we always felt to be exceedingly discouraging, and we only wonder now how we could have persevered so long. To the newspaper press of Montreal, and throughout Canada, we beg to offer our most grateful acknowledgments, for the invariable kindness and support we have received from them; indeed, were it not for this support, we should have long since discontinued our communications on Agriculture.

We are most anxious that this Journal should be translated and published in the French Language, but we cannot undertake to incur so great an expense, unless we are secured against loss. It is scarcely possible to conceive, that in Montreal alone, where there are so many wealthy and respectable Canadian proprietors, there should be any difficulty in securing us against loss in publishing in French. After this year the publication we are sure would support itself. We anxiously wait the commands of the wealthy and educated Canadians in this matter, and will do all in our power to meet their views in the future conduct of this Journal, always carefully excluding all party politics, and endeavouring to direct the minds of our readers into those channels which are certain to be most profitable to them, by instructing them in what manner they may increase the productiveness of their lands.