

An addition of 50 per cent. to the above numbers will give an approximation to the relative strength of each denomination at the present time, January, 1860. In Upper Canada the Roman Catholics form about one-sixth of the whole population, and in Lower Canada about five-sixths.

AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF THE SOIL.

A reference to the display of cereals and other agricultural productions made by Canada, at the Exhibitions of London and Paris, might be considered sufficient to illustrate the remarkable adaptation of the soil to their growth and cultivation; but so limited a notice would leave the question of permanent fertility still unanswered. When, however, it is known that the area in which the astonishing crops of wheat are raised, for which Upper Canada is so justly distinguished, extends over three-fourths of the present inhabited parts of the country, and that the prevailing soils consist of rich clays of great depth, the question of permanent fertility resolves itself into that of husbandry.

In the valleys of some of the largest rivers of Upper Canada, wheat has been grown after wheat for twenty years; the first crops yielded an average of 40 bushels to the acre, but under the thoughtless system of husbandry then pursued, the yield diminished to 12 bushels to the acre, and compelled a change of system, which soon had the effect of restoring the land to its original fertility. This system of exhaustion has effected its own cure, and led to the introduction of a more rational method of cultivating the soil. Years ago, when roads were bad and facilities for communicating with markets few and far between, wheat was the only saleable produce of the farm, so that no effort was spared to cultivate that cereal to the utmost extent. Now, since railroads, macadamized roads, and plank roads have opened up the country, and agricultural societies have succeeded in disseminating much useful instruction and information, husbandry has improved in all directions, and the natural fertility of the soil of the old settlements is in great part restored.

The average yield of wheat in some townships exceeds 22 bushels to the acre, and where an approach to good farming prevails the yield rises to thirty and often forty bushels to the acre. On new land fifty bushels is not very uncommon; and it must not be forgotten that Canadian wheat, grown near the city of Toronto, won a first prize at the Paris Exhibition. It may truly be said that the soil of what may be termed the agricultural portion of Canada, which comprises four-fifths of the inhabited portion, and a vast area still in the hands