

will be strange if it should not have ample support amongst a population so dependent upon Agriculture. Whatever merit the Journal may have, it is difficult to believe that any farmer would withhold his support to a publication that can have no object but the advancement of Agricultural improvement, and the general prosperity, even though it would not be deemed by him who would give his support worthy of perusal. It is on public and general grounds support is expected. Every experienced farmer can contribute to the usefulness of the Journal by communicating his superior skill and practice in Agriculture, for the instruction of his brother farmers who may not have had equal opportunities of learning their business. For such communications alone an Agricultural Journal might be very beneficial to the country. If men of experience should find the Journal deficient in practical information and instruction, they can readily improve it by communicating superior information and instruction in the practice of husbandry. This, we conceive, will be the most useful and friendly course to adopt by all who do not find the Journal come up to their standard of perfection.

The following article we copy from a valuable little work, on the "CULTIVATED PLANTS OF THE FARM." Though the whole of it may not be applicable for us in Canada, it contains information that may be useful to the Farmers in any country.

WHEAT.—The word *Wheat* is derived from *hpeace*, Saxon; *weyde*, Dutch; *hwaiiei*, Maso-Gothic; *hweite*, Icelandic, from "hwit," *albus* (Serenus.) It is the grain of which bread is chiefly made.

The generic name of Wheat is *Triticum*, a word very satisfactorily derived by Varro himself from *tritum* (Latin,) *ground* or *rubbed*, because of the manner in which its grain is prepared for the food of mankind. It belongs to the class and order *Triandia Digginsia* of Linnæus; and the natural order *Gramineæ* of Jussieu.

1. Spring Wheat. *Calyx*, four-flowered, tumid, smooth, with imbricated awn; supposed to be a native of Siberia. This wheat may be supposed to be nothing more than a permanent variety of

Winter Wheat, obtained by accidental circumstances.

2. Winter or Lammas Wheat *Calyces*, four-flowered, ventricose, even, imbricate, with little or no awn; *ears*, or spikes long, with the grains ranged in four rows, and imbricate; the *chaff* smooth, ventricose, or bellied, and not terminated by awns, or beards. Wheat has, however, occasionally short awns, but not the length of those in Spring Wheat. Native country unknown; the root consists of downy fibres. *Stems*, one or more, erect, straight, from three to five feet high, round, jointed, smooth, leafy. *Leaves*, linear, pointed, flat, many-ribbed, rough, entire, rather glaucous. *Stipula*, jagged, bearded. *Spike*, solitary, two or three inches long, dense, two-ranked, smooth; joints of the common stalk, bearded. *Glumes*, smooth. *Calyx* in the upper part of the spike, with a more elongated point. *Corolla* of the upper spikelets, frequently more or less awned.

Wheat being exposed to the severity of winter, its roots are most wonderfully disposed to withstand the inclemency of the season. The first, or seminal root, is pushed out at the same time with the germ; and that, together with the meal, nourishes the plant, until it has formed the crown. When this has become sufficiently large, it detaches a number of small fibres, which push themselves obliquely downwards. These are the coronal roots. A small pipe preserves the communication between them and the seminal roots. It makes an essential part of the plant, and is observed to be longer or shorter, according to the depth at which the seed has been buried. The crown, however, is always formed just without the surface; and its place is the same, whether the grain has been sown deep or superficially. As the increase and fructification of the plant depend upon the vigorous absorption of the coronal roots, it is no wonder that they should fix themselves so near the surface, where the soil is always the richest. The stalk, straw, or culm, as Linnæus calls it, is three feet high on an average, is jointed, cespitose, or in tufts: seventy-two stalks have been known to proceed from one root. The leaves are smooth, three lines wide, often much more, and on rich grounds of a very dark green colour. The spikes are close, weighty, and several inches in length. The lower flowers are imperfect, as is commonly the case in this order of plants. The glumes, or chaff of the calyx are ovate-lanceolate, and end in a point like a short awn; they each contain, for the most part, four flowers, but sometimes only three, and often five or six; but one or more frequently fall off without producing any grain. The two glumes, or chaffs of the corolla are equal; but the outer one puts forth an awn a little below the tip, an inch or two inches in length; sometimes, however, there is none: the inner one is hollow, awnless, and two-toothed. Between these, lies the seed, or grain, which is