

## Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 1st, 1848.

☞ All articles in this paper which are *leaded*, i. e. which have a free, open appearance, like the present and the one that follows it, are original—written either by the Editor or by contributors. Those that have a close, solid appearance, like the article on the next page, headed "HINTS FOR FEBRUARY," are either copied from other publications or written by Correspondents, in which latter case the name, real or fictitious, of the writer will appear, with date, &c. All articles not written or entirely re-modelled by the Editor, which appear as editorial, will be distinguished by a letter of the alphabet, usually the initial of the writer's name, at the end.

We make these explanations, in order that readers may not confound what *we* say with what is said by *other* people; and that they may neither give us credit nor *blame* us for what is not ours. We have heard readers speak of what they had seen in a newspaper, as if the whole of the paper were written by the Editor; and of course such people hold him responsible for the truth of every sentence in its pages. A very little reflection will convince any person of sense of the absurdity of such a notion. If we find a statement in a respectable exchange paper, or in the works of some author of established reputation, which seems plausible and worthy of notice, we insert it for *what it may be worth*, and the reader must so regard it. If we meet with a receipt which is recommended as valuable, we give it; and unless we *happen* to have proved it, and state that fact, the reader must try for himself before he relies upon its efficacy. We trust all our readers, before they find fault with the Editor, will think of the above remarks, and try to form a just and proper notion of his true position, duties and responsibilities.

We beg further to state, although it ought to be unnecessary, that we must not be identified with, or held accountable for, the opinions of our Correspondents. Our pages are open to fair and free discussion on all suitable subjects; and we here invite the friends of agriculture to assist us in diffusing among our farmers correct opinions upon all subjects of interest to them. We have but one request to make now, and that is, that they will make their communications as *short* and as much to the purpose as possible.

### AGRICULTURE, IN CONNECTION WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

The above is becoming a favorite movement in various parts of the United States, and it is thought that should the experiments now being made prove successful in accomplishing the results the friends of the cause anticipate, liberal provision will be made by the different State Governments, for the establishment of agricultural chairs and experimental farms, in connection with their principal collegiate Institutions. The Eastern Colleges have nobly set the example, in bringing about this truly great reform; and we learn that Professors Horsford and Norton, the former of Harvard and the latter of Yale College, have been very successful in practically applying and illustrating the science of Agriculture to the understandings of the hundreds of students who attend these richly endowed institutions. The Legislature of the comparatively small and new State of Georgia, has recently made a liberal appropriation to found and sustain an agricultural professorship in the State University.

Ireland and Scotland are both becoming alive to the importance of raising the business of agriculture to a standard which will entitle it to rank, in the lapse of a few years, with the exact sciences. England is not lagging in the work, and there is no doubt that agricultural schools, in connection with example or pattern farms, will become very general in Great Britain and Ireland, before many years. Indeed government has already made provision for the establishment of educational institutions of this description in each county of the latter

country. It properly managed they may be made nearly self-sustaining, especially if established upon the basis of those that are being put into operation in Ireland.

As agriculture is the great source of productive labour in Canada, it is important that those employed in it, should thoroughly understand the principles which govern the various operations on the farm, and be able to trace effects to their true cause. Modern philosophers have clearly illustrated the applicability of science to agriculture, and why should not the agricultural youth of the present day avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from a knowledge of the important facts that have been so clearly revealed to us by a Davy, a Liebig, a Playfair, a Johnston, and a host of other worthies, who have spent their lives, and devoted their substance in the investigation of agricultural phenomena? The discoveries made by these men have been promulgated far and wide by the press, and may be made available with a very trifling cost, by any youth who has a desire to become acquainted with them. The science of chemistry, botany, geology and mechanics, should be taught in those Academies, where our wealthy farmer's sons are being educated, and even in the common schools, we may hope that through the agency of the Normal School, a taste will be imparted to the rural population for the study of such sciences. We look to our Provincial University of King's College to set an example in this great national enterprise. It is so richly endowed that a few costly experiments in practical agriculture would not be seriously felt. A respectable farm, placed under proper management, in connection with this Institution, would have a very wholesome influence on the productive interests of this Province. The cultivation of new crops, the application of new machines to the various operations on the farm, the testing of the efficacy of the various modes of underdraining, subsoiling, and tilling the land, and not least, the careful analysis of soils and plants, would all form an important part in ameliorating and elevating the condition of the Agriculture of Canada.

Agriculture is now acknowledged on all hands to be of the greatest importance to all interests. The success of all other branches of trade, is mainly dependant upon the productiveness of the soil; it is therefore to be hoped, that the Canadian Government will look well to the matter, and at least place the educational institutions under their controul, on such a footing, that a sound practical education may be imparted to the youth of our land, calculated to further the development of the great resources of the country. We shall as soon as we can find time to digest some ideas which we entertain, with regard to a *general law* for the promotion of Agriculture, lay our scheme before the public, and we hope to be able to draw the attention of the new Parliament to a subject, which we contend is of vastly greater importance to the country than any other single measure that can be framed.

### HINTS FOR FEBRUARY.

Some of the following "hints" which we find in the *Genesee Farmer*, are well worthy the reader's notice, and will answer for February as well as the month for which they were written:—

HINTS FOR JANUARY.—This month is an important epoch in time; but whether this old beldame, Earth, first begun to buzz round on th's first day, sacred to the heathen god Janarius; or whether Adam on this day was first created and given power over all the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, or whether it is entirely an assumption of our progenitors, we plead ignoramus. But our belief is that it is entirely arbitrary, and confess to a dread and dislike of the cold blasts of winter; that death and nonentity of all things beautiful and fair—that period of monotony—of snows, of frosts, of wind, and mud; the absence of leaf and life, of song, and the blessed invigorat-