

A late correspondent in the *Boston Advertiser* speaks thus of the prairies of Illinois:—"The articles of flax, hemp, and tobacco are extensively raised on the borders of the Rock River, and it is said that about two hundred tons will be exported, from that region, during the year. But by far the most important matter is, the very extensive introduction of sheep into this state—so extensive that it is now probable, that at the end of five years, there will be more wool raised in Illinois, than any other state of the union.

"The farmers from Western New York, are driving their flocks, and English farmers are going very largely into the business. I have now before me a wealthy farmer of Western New York, who has arranged to send out 2000 sheep this fall. The sheep run at large on the prairies in the summer, of course at no charge. He pays, he tells me, \$1 per ton for cutting and stacking 250 tons of prairie hay for winter. He buys a tract of 150 acres, and erects a small house. A shepherd with his dog takes the entire care of the sheep, and can do so of 3000 sheep, and 200 head of cattle. You can thus easily perceive that, if the farmer can procure the use of thousands of acres of meadow for nothing, and hay for \$1 per ton, it is vain for the wool growers of Western New York, or New England, to undertake long to compete with the West."

So far as Canada is concerned she has no right to legislate for the West, and in order that her sons may be prosperous and happy, she must, in every reasonable way, protect their interests. The wheat question has been amicably settled, and the most sensible portion of the Canadian husbandmen are now of opinion, that the distance which the fertile regions of the 'far west' lay from our markets,—the small impost duty of three shillings sterling, per quarter,—the differential imperial duties on Canadian over foreign corn,—and the advantage of grinding the flour and carrying it in Canadian and British bottoms, will be, on the whole, of greater advantage to the country, than if a reciprocal duty were levied on the article of wheat.

We have elsewhere remarked, that it is our firm opinion, that our neighbouring country—the United States—have got over the worst of their commercial and monetary difficulties—and that very shortly the attention of the over populated countries on the continent of Europe, will adopt means to transplant a portion of their redundant population, on the boundless prairies, which are situated between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and the Rocky mountains. Shall Canada lie dormant while the improvement are going on in the Illinois, which are intended to connect the great chain of lakes with the waters of the Mississippi? we trow not. We are confident that there is too much stamina in the majority of the Canadian population, to allow the Americans to excel them in any particular. With all the natural advantages that the territories of the United States may possess, it is possible to place the British American provinces on a more substantial footing, and in a more enviable position, than our neighbouring country. To accomplish such a gigantic scheme, the necessary plans to

be adopted would require more space than we have at present unoccupied; but while we are on the subject of the proposed Tariff, we would remark that, as the Americans show no inclination to trade with us on the very liberal terms that we have done with them during the past fifteen years, we, as cultivators of the soil, have a right to demand from our legislators equal justice.

The views we entertain regarding the Canadian Tariff are, we apprehend, in advance of public opinion, and will require a lapse of eight or ten years to accomplish, if we could form an opinion on the subject, from the ordinary course of Canadian legislation. It may not be out of place for us to mention, that the leading features of our plan, would be to levy a scale of duties on every article produced or manufactured in the United States equivalent to the scale of duties levied on foreign produce or goods entering the markets of that country; and the total repeal of all duties, now collected on British goods. We are aware that this scheme is very unpopular, and we are even willing to acknowledge that it is impracticable at this present period, but, notwithstanding, it will unquestionably become popular on both sides of the Atlantic, as soon as the attention of the leading statesmen of Britain and the colony can be attracted to its importance. We also feel confident that this scheme will be practicable in a much less period of time than most people imagine.

The advantages which we are already in possession of, and the attention which has lately been shown us, are sure indications that a new era, in Canadian prosperity, is at hand. When our land becomes densely populated with European cultivators of the soil, the difference between indirect and direct taxation will be better understood. The trade with Britain will then be unshackled, and the colonies will then enjoy all the advantages of English counties.

How insincere in the extreme will the British Government consider the attachment of the colonists to her laws and institutions, if while they admit, by words or promises, that the connection is an indissoluble one, and humbly pray to have all the advantages of that connection, that the circumstances of the parent country will afford; and by their acts and doings undermine the best interests of their fostering parent at the foundation, by covertly courting a trade with a foreign nation, whose interests and institutions are essentially different from their own. The Canadian Tariff, as it now stands, will open a field for an immense trade in American manufactured goods, for which nothing will be taken in exchange but gold and silver. The evil resulting from this description of trade, has already almost ruined this colony—it has sapped, stagnated and chilled the blood of her hardy and brave sons—and has in many instances, so far alienated their affections from her institutions and laws, that they have been willing to acknowledge that the cause of the slow advance of public improvements, and individual enterprise, in this country, may be attributed to no other cause than the con-

nection which we bear to Great Britain. We trust that the attention of the people's representatives will be devotedly and properly drawn to this important subject. We unscrupulously give it as our opinion, that no individual act of theirs would have a tendency to do one tithe of the practical good, as the passing of a prayer to the British Government, for the adoption of a reciprocal scale of duties on all American agricultural produce (excepting wheat), and manufactured goods. Our motives for asking favours would then be appreciated by British statesmen,—the colony would soon be placed in a healthy position, and capital and skill would flow here in abundance.

We are happy to see, by the late Kingston papers, that this subject is attracting the attention of some of the best statesmen in the colony,—members of the honourable the Legislative Council,—and as, no doubt, something tangible will be brought up before our next impression, we shall withhold, for the present, any other remarks on the subject.

FURTHER NOTICES OF THE BRITISH AMERICAN CULTIVATOR.

The British American Cultivator is now issued at *The Banner Office*, in this city, and published monthly, at the advance price of only one dollar per annum, by Mr. W. G. Edmundson, Editor and Proprietor, who is sparing no exertions or expense to make his very necessary and useful publication acceptable to the farmers of Canada; and they will, if they do not support it, show themselves possessed of little regard for their own interests, or a public spirit. Every one of them should take it, read it, and pay for it.—*Christian Guardian*.

If Canada is to progress, it can only be by a diligent application of its natural resources. We ought to consider agriculture as the sheet anchor of our hope. The time is past for remaining contented with our present attainments in agriculture; we must advance with the age, if we desire to compete with others. Every Canadian ought to be a subscriber to the *British American Cultivator*.—*Woodstock Monarch*.

The course which we have uniformly adopted in adhering closely to the advancement of agricultural knowledge and skill, has kept us in favour with the Canadian press, without an exception. The two very favourable notices which we have copied from the *Guardian* and *Monarch*, are evidence that our object is a good one, and that we have a claim on the public for their patronage. Many farmers have told us that they would prize our work more highly, were we to devote one or two pages to Foreign and Domestic news,—we invariably replied that such a course would be prejudicial to our interests, as the political and commercial papers would then feel indisposed to recommend our magazine, as it would have the effect of lessening their circulation. So long as we have the honour of conducting *The Cultivator*, we shall confine ourselves to agricultural and rural affairs, and we trust that the Canadian press in general will aid us in establishing a journal devoted ostensibly to the great interests of the country.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST'S ALMANAC FOR 1844 has been received at this office, and is highly creditable to the enterprise and talents of its Editor, A. B. Allen, Esquire. If the publisher thinks proper to forward a few dozen of his admirable work to our address, we shall, with much pleasure, dispose of them without any cost for our services.—Price, 7½d per copy.